Patterns of later prehistoric and Roman enclosed settlement in western Somerset : an initial study of the evidence for site distribution and morphology.

Volume One

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Abstract.

Comprising a region of varied geology and topography, western Somerset is well suited to the investigation of early settlement patterns. The present study is focused on the evidence for later prehistoric and Roman occupation in this region and is based on data provided by the distribution, siting and morphology of ditched enclosures. By combining data from all recorded earthworks with a large quantity of recent cropmark evidence, it has been possible to examine patterns of settlement and to assess the probable nature of socio-economic and political arrangements in the area during these periods.

Much of this study is concerned with identifying potential variations in food producing systems and settlement patterns across western Somerset. This has revealed that substantial differences existed between upland and lowland areas and that the seasonal exploitation of both resource zones could have played an important role in the socio-economic life of the region. It has also shown that patterns of enclosure location and associations between sites are varied, with predominantly isolated enclosures in upland areas contrasting with widespread evidence for the pairing and clustering of sites at lower elevations. On the basis of all the available data, it has been concluded that the many localised variations in settlement patterns probably reflect differences in food producing strategies and may have occurred within an overall system of small socio-political groupings.

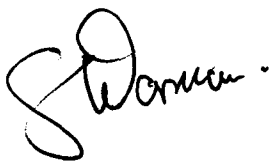
In Volume 1, evidence relating to the distribution and location of all recorded enclosures is analysed and evaluated. This includes the classification and analysis of data relating to enclosure morphology, topographical position and spatial relationships between sites. Volume 2 contains a series of local studies which illustrate specific aspects of enclosure siting and morphology. These are followed by a review of all available dating evidence and discussions of recorded patterns of change in enclosure location and morphology across the study area. The results of this research are also considered in a broader context by comparisons with evidence from both adjacent and more distant regions of Britain.

Acknowledgements.

The author wishes to express his gratitude to the staff of the Historic Environment Department of Somerset County Council, notably Mr Chris Webster, without whose ready assistance, co-operation and tolerance this study would not have been possible. Thanks are also due to Mr Steve Minnitt, County Museums Officer, and Mr David Bromwich, SANHS Librarian, for the access given to artefact collections and to published sources of data. In addition to the above, Mr Colin Clements provided useful data relating to work undertaken during the construction of the M5 motorway in 1971-2 and Mrs Pam Gait provided considerable help with the geophysical surveys. Finally, Mr Mark Corney (Adviser) provided invaluable support with pottery identification and, with Dr Joshua Pollard (Adviser), gave much appreciated guidance and encouragement.

AUTHOR'S DECLARATION.

I declare that the work in this dissertation was carried out in accordance with the Regulations of the University of Bristol. The work is original, except where indicated by special reference in the text and no part of the dissertation has been submitted for any other academic award. Any views expressed in the dissertation are those of the author and in no way represent those of the University of Bristol. The dissertation has not been presented to any other University for examination either in the United Kingdom or overseas.

Signed : 

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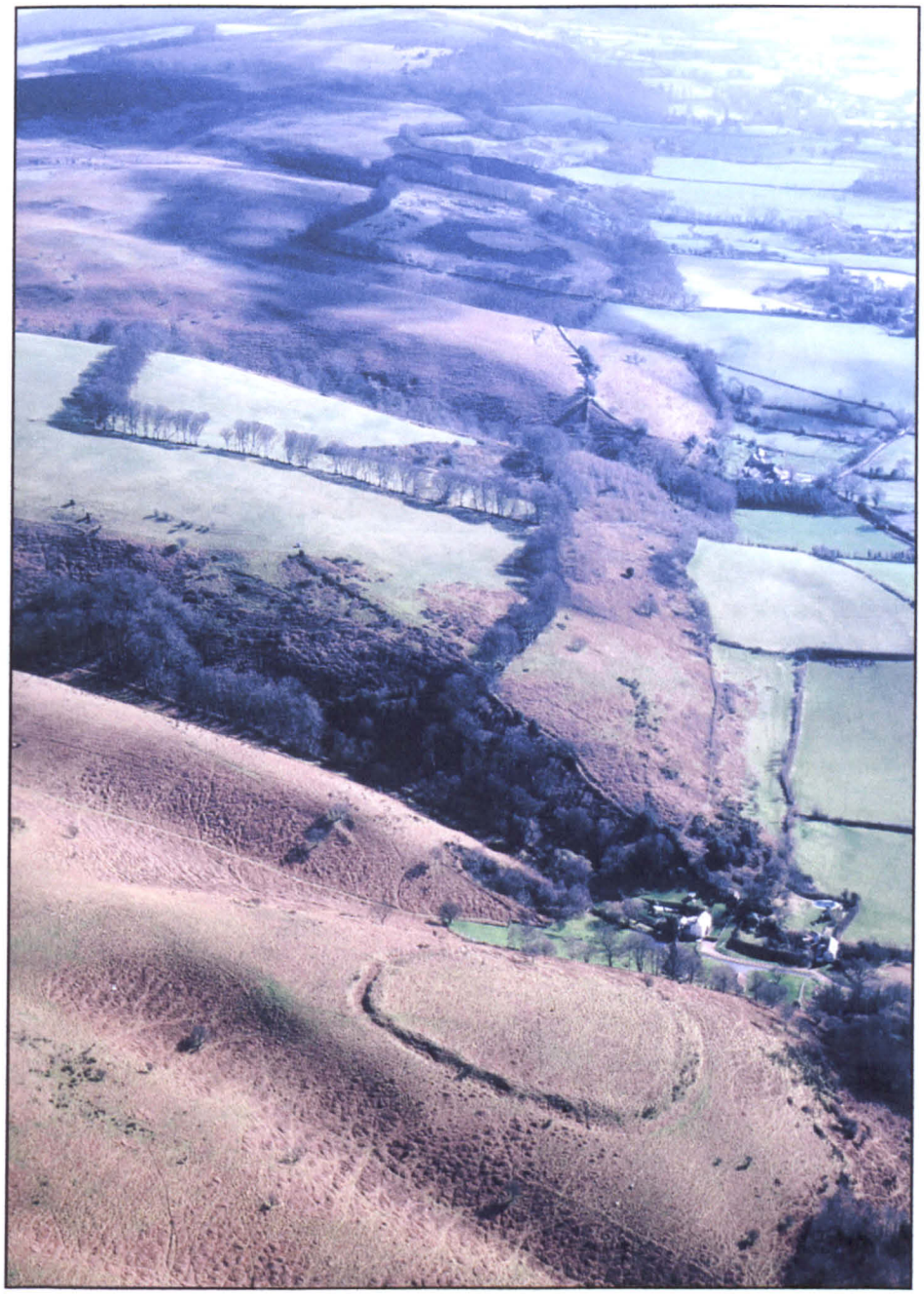
List of abbreviations.

CUCAP : Cambridge University Committee for Aerial Photography.
DAP : Devon Air Photographs.
EH : English Heritage.
HER : Historic Environment Record (for Somerset).
NMR : National Monuments Record, Swindon.
OSAD : Ordnance Survey Archaeological Division.
RCHME : Royal Commission on Historical Monuments in England.
RCHMW: Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales.
SANHS : Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society.
SCM : Somerset County Museum, Taunton.
SLP : Somerset Levels Project.
SMR : Sites and Monuments Record (other counties).
SQAS : Southern Quantocks Archaeological Survey.

Abbreviations used solely in the Bibliography are given at the beginning of that section (p. 334).

Site Reference Codes.

All sites included on the database for this study have been allocated a prefixed reference code which places them within the parish recorded in the Somerset Historic Environment Record. For example, the code NP17 refers to site number 17 in the parish of North Petherton. The prefixes and full names of all relevant parishes are listed in the summary of the database contained in Appendix 1.



Frontispiece : *Trendle Ring, Bicknoller, showing the view southwards along the north Quantock ridge towards the Vale of Taunton.*

(NMR Photo.15828 / 24)

Chapter 1 : Introduction, sources of evidence and methodology.

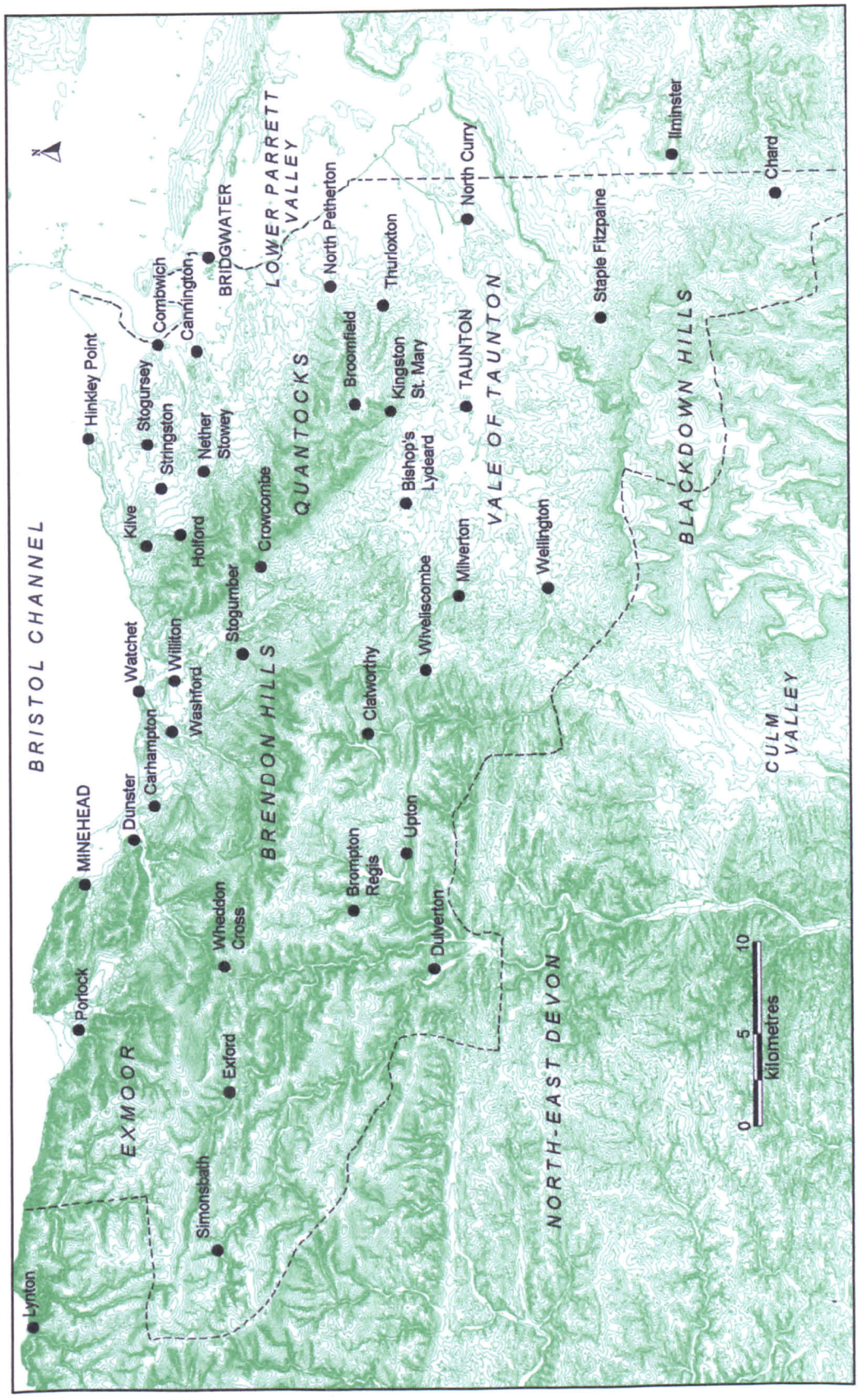
1.1 Introduction.

This study examines and discusses the evidence for later prehistoric and Roman settlement in western Somerset as revealed by the distribution, typology and siting of ditched enclosures. It has its origins in work undertaken by the writer on early settlement in the Quantock Hills, which was the subject of an MA dissertation submitted to the University of Bristol (Norman 2001). By identifying recurring patterns in the location and morphology of enclosures, this limited research highlighted the potential for a more thorough examination of the evidence from a wider area of Somerset. It also revealed that a considerable quantity of air photographic and other evidence had yet to be studied in detail and that the county based resources and support for undertaking such a task were good.

The present study is concerned with that part of Somerset which extends eastwards from the Devon border near Lynton to the fringes of the Somerset Levels between Bridgwater and Chard (Fig.1). Covering some 1800 square kilometres, this study area forms a topographically diverse region and encompasses the uplands of Exmoor, the Brendons, the Quantocks and much of the Blackdown Hills. It also includes agriculturally productive lowlands in the Vale of Taunton, the lower Parrett valley and along the Bristol Channel coast. A more detailed description of the geology and topography of the study area is provided in Appendix 2.

1.1.1 The aims of this research.

As stated in the title, this dissertation records the results of an initial study of evidence for the distribution, siting and morphology of enclosed settlement in western Somerset. As this work drew heavily on previously unstudied data, it was necessary to assemble a detailed and comprehensive database which could be used to pursue a broad-based enquiry. In order to design a coherent research framework, four principal aims were identified. These determined the types of data required for analysis and are summarised below:



(**KEY :** Dashed line denotes the boundary of the study area.)

Fig. 1 *General reference map showing the boundaries of the study area.*

1) To produce a compilation of archaeological and topographical data for the study area which contains sufficient statistical and illustrative material to allow comparisons to be made with other regions of Britain. These data should be suitable for detailed analysis and should also provide the means of identifying specific topics for future research.
2) To identify and examine potentially significant relationships between the distribution, siting and morphology of enclosures and locational factors such as elevation and slope. By doing this, it was hoped to identify variations in settlement patterns between upland and lowland areas and to assess the extent to which different resource zones may have been exploited by individual communities as part of a seasonal economic cycle. It was also hoped to assess the extent to which such relationships could provide evidence for differences in economic, social and political arrangements across the study area during the later prehistoric and Roman periods.
3) To assess the study area in terms of its potential social and economic contacts and regional affiliations. In order to achieve this it would be necessary to examine the evidence from adjacent areas of south-western Britain and to address the question of Iron Age tribal identities. An assessment of the extent to which the area may have developed localised characteristics would also be required.
4) To enhance and, if necessary, question currently held views regarding the nature of later prehistoric and Roman settlement in the study area, which largely reflect published studies based on a small number of excavations and field surveys of earthwork enclosures. Relying heavily on data from extant sites located in upland areas, most previous researchers had access to little or no air photograph evidence and thus were unable to present a more balanced view of settlement across the whole region.

1.1.2 A brief outline of the thesis.

In addition to a review of relevant published work, the remainder of Chapter 1 describes the nature and sources of the evidence obtained during this study and the research methodologies employed. It outlines the content and structure of the database, which collates archaeological and topographical data relating to both extant and cropmark enclosures. It also evaluates the quality and reliability of

these data in order to assess their potential limitations for the purposes of analysis and interpretation.

In Chapter 2, the known distribution of enclosures across western Somerset is considered. In addition to recording broad patterns relating to geographical distribution, an emphasis is placed on identifying significant relationships between enclosure location and a series of selected topographical attributes including elevation, slope and aspect.

Continuing the general study of the occurrence and distribution of enclosures, Chapter 3 is mainly concerned with the classification and analysis of data relating to enclosure morphology and spatial relationships between sites. It also identifies and defines a series of specific enclosure type groups which are based on both archaeological and topographical data. These type groups, which contain some 30% of recorded enclosures, have been designed to facilitate interpretations and discussions of specific patterns of settlement.

Chapter 4 consists of four sections, each of which deals with the evidence obtained from a selected sub-region within the study area. Illustrating and expanding on themes introduced in Chapters 2 and 3, these localised studies reflect the topographical diversity of the study area and focus attention on specific aspects of enclosure distribution, location and morphology.

A review of all available dating evidence relating to the construction and occupation of enclosures in the study area is contained in Chapter 5. This is followed by a synthesis and discussion of the data presented in earlier chapters and an evaluation of recorded patterns of change in the location and morphology of enclosures across the region.

In Chapter 6, the study area is considered in a broader context. Evidence for enclosed settlement in adjacent parts of south-west England and south Wales is summarised and possible social, economic and political relationships between these areas and western Somerset are discussed. This is followed by brief examinations of published studies of enclosed settlement in Cornwall, Cumbria and central Wessex. These reviews draw attention to aspects of methodology and recorded patterns of settlement which are of relevance to the present study.

In bringing this study to a close, Chapter 7 provides a review and assessment of the more significant results obtained and conclusions reached. It also identifies some potentially fruitful topics for further research.

1.1.3 A brief review of published work relating to enclosures in the study area.

Despite containing many extant enclosures, western Somerset has until recently received only modest attention in comparison to neighbouring regions. This may partly reflect an absence of large hillforts, such as occur elsewhere in the county, and a perceived lack of Romanisation in the form of roads, villas and townships. As a result, some general studies covering the south-west, for example Pearce 1981, have portrayed this area as being somewhat peripheral and have concentrated more on other parts of Somerset, or areas further west in Devon and Cornwall.

The summary given below provides an insight into the state of knowledge regarding later prehistoric and Roman settlement in the study area at the time when the present research was undertaken.

a) Published general studies containing relevant observations and data.

The earliest work containing more than a brief reference to enclosures in western Somerset was published in 1836 (Phelps 1836). This contained descriptions and plans of seven of the more apparent field monuments, including Bury Castle near Selworthy (SE01), Dowsborough Camp, Holford (HO01) and Trendle Ring, Bicknoller (BN01).

During the 1880s, nearly half of the extant enclosures known today were surveyed by the Ordnance Survey and included on the first edition 1 : 2500 plans of the area published in 1887.

However, it was not until the early twentieth century that the first comprehensive study of known earthwork sites was undertaken (Bothamley 1911). This was based on published Ordnance Survey plans augmented by field visits and limited re-survey and provides descriptions of twenty seven sites in the study area. In addition to presenting a simple classification system based mainly on location and defensive potential, much morphological detail including measurements and states of preservation was also given. These latter have been valuable to the present study, especially in relation to sites which have subsequently been badly damaged, such as Curdon Wood Camp near Stogumber (SG02).

Drawing heavily on this earlier work, E. J. Burrow included descriptions of all the known enclosures in the study area in his account of the ancient earthworks and camps of Somerset (Burrow 1924). Although this work contains some original observations, it has attracted criticism for a somewhat romanticised approach to its subject matter (Fowler and Rahtz 1982). In 1931, a volume in the Methuen County

Archaeologies Series by Dina Dobson contained a fairly brief chapter on 'Camps' (Dobson 1931). Although largely devoted to hillforts in north and east Somerset, this included brief descriptions of most of the monuments in the study area recorded by Bothamley, but no new field observations.

Little further work relating to late prehistoric or Roman settlement in the area was published until the 1950s, when Fox included a few Exmoor sites in her typological studies of hill-slope forts in south-west England and South Wales (Fox 1952, Fox 1961). Her 1961 paper, which proposed a typological scheme for forts with multiple enclosures, provided the impetus for further morphological study of several extant sites on Exmoor, including three (Staddon Hill Camp (WF02), Berry Castle (PO01) and Bury Castle, Selworthy (SE01) which lie within the study area (Whybrow 1967).

In 1970, Grinsell published a general review of the archaeology of west Somerset and north-east Devon, which contained some brief but useful field observations and an appendix listing thirty one of the extant monuments in the study area (Grinsell 1970). Of more local significance, surveys of the parishes of Wambrook and Whitestaunton near Chard were published during the following decade. These identified a number of possible earthwork enclosures, only one of which (Wortheal Farm, WK01) is considered relevant to the present study (Carter 1977 ; Carter 1981).

In 1981, an examination of the evidence for hillfort and hill-top settlement in Somerset during the first millennium AD was published (Burrow 1981). Providing a complete coverage for western Somerset, this study included useful descriptions of all extant monuments visited and a simple classification scheme for all enclosures known at that time. Of particular value was a detailed analysis of the evidence for late Roman and post-Roman re-use of hillforts and other 'defended' enclosures. In the following year, contributions to a new volume on the archaeology of Somerset included brief but useful reviews of the accumulating evidence for later prehistoric and Roman settlement in the county (Cunliffe 1982 ; Burrow 1982 ; Leech and Leach 1982).

The new millennium has been marked by the appearance of three substantial publications relevant to the study area. The first of these is essentially a comparative review of enclosure typology and distribution in south-west England and north-west France (Arbousse Bastide 2000). Containing a considerable number of redrawn plans, a gazetteer and an extensive bibliography, it is useful as an initial reference source, especially in relation to sites located in Devon and Dorset. Unfortunately its value to the present research is more problematic, as it relies exclusively on published data and

includes no original fieldwork or air photograph interpretation. Furthermore, significant errors have been detected in both the gazetteer and several enclosure plans for the study area, raising doubts regarding its overall reliability as a source of data. However the study follows an innovative, theoretical approach and, as a result, makes a useful contribution to the archaeology of south-western England.

More recently, a major archaeological survey of the Exmoor National Park undertaken by the RCHME has been published by English Heritage (Riley and Wilson-North 2001). In addition to many recent survey plans, this includes a comprehensive gazetteer of extant enclosures, early field systems and Roman military sites. In discussion, some attention has been paid to the siting and distribution of specific classes of field monument, particularly in relation to environmental factors. However, as the National Park boundaries rarely extend beyond the Palaeozoic uplands, little consideration was given to the numerous cropmark sites which occur around the periphery of Exmoor and the Brendons.

Also published in 2001, an account of Roman Somerset by Peter Leach focuses mainly on the prolific evidence for both urban and rural settlement in the northern and eastern parts of the county (Leach 2001). In addition to providing a regional overview, Leach briefly draws attention to some basic differences in the nature of the settlement evidence between western Somerset and the remainder of the county. However, little mention is made of the evidence for Roman settlements in the study area apart from those in the immediate vicinity of Taunton (Leach 2001, 94-5).

b) Interim reports and sites awaiting publication.

Beyond the general accounts and field surveys outlined above, only a limited amount of published data relating to enclosures in the study area is currently available. Few sites have been excavated and, of these, only Norton Fitzwarren Camp (NF01) has produced chronological evidence of more than local significance (Gray 1908; Ellis 1989). However, some morphological and dating evidence was obtained through excavation at a Roman fort near Wiveliscombe (WV02; Webster 1958), Higher Castles, Broomfield (BF02; Anon. 1968) and at Cannington (CN02, CN01; Rahtz 1969).

More recently, excavations prior to development at Maidenbrook Farm near Taunton produced a valuable sequence of late prehistoric and Roman pottery associated with a series of enclosure ditches (CH11-13 ; Ferris and Bevan 1993). Although not clearly

associated with settlement enclosures, recent excavations on a site at Upper Holway have raised important issues relating to the nature and intensity of late prehistoric and Roman settlement in the vicinity of Taunton (Leach 2003).

To date, only brief interim accounts of the evidence for enclosures obtained through aerial reconnaissance and photography (1.3.2) have been published (Aston 1977, 1978; Griffith 1990b; Croft and Aston 1993; Horner and Griffith 1997; Horner 1998). More comprehensive overviews of the accumulating air photographic evidence are provided in Griffith 1990a and Griffith and Horner 2000. However, little detail regarding specific enclosures is contained in these reviews and no rectified images or transcriptions are included.

A substantial amount of evidence relating to late prehistoric and Roman settlement in the study area is currently awaiting publication. This applies particularly to sites investigated during the construction of the M5 motorway between Bridgwater and Wellington. Although this work was carried out between 1971 and 1974, only cursory details of at least three important later prehistoric and Roman ditched settlements have as yet emerged (Fowler and Bennett 1973; Dawson et al. 2003). Of particular concern is the current uncertainty regarding the whereabouts of two important excavation archives and many of the finds. Equally problematic is the unavailability for study of the archive data and finds, currently in private possession, which relate to a Bronze Age enclosure at Poundisford Park near Taunton (PT01).

Of potential importance is research recently undertaken in the Quantock Hills by Winchester University (the Southern Quantocks Archaeological Survey). Between 2000 and 2005, this project carried out fieldwork, geophysical survey and excavation on enclosures and other features revealed through aerial photography at Toulton (CT01), Stoneage Barton (BL15,16), Volis Farm (KM10) and Yarford (KM16). Although only brief interim reports have as yet been published, post-excavation analysis is currently underway and full publication is expected soon (pers. comms. K. Wilkinson, N. Thorpe).

1.2 Compiling the database.

In order to pursue this study, it was necessary to review all available data relating to possible prehistoric or Roman enclosures and organise these into a comprehensive database. In designing this a number of considerations were taken into account. Of these, the need to provide a standardised format for both

archaeological and topographical data obtained from a variety of sources was thought to be of particular importance. It was also thought necessary to clarify and define the terminology used, both for the purposes of analysis and in order to facilitate comparisons between enclosures located both within and beyond the study area. Taking into account the wide variations in the quality of the available evidence, it was also decided to categorise each database entry according to its reliability and potential typological value.

As a large body of data from a variety of sources was to be examined, it was decided to construct the database as a series of four interrelated and cross-referenced components. These consisted of :-

1) A series of lists containing standardised statistical data for each site. Containing both topographical and archaeological data, these were produced on Microsoft Excel worksheets and were thus suitable for detailed analysis by blending and sorting.
2) Record cards for each site, containing basic data and space for notes, references and field observations. Attached to each was either a simplified earthwork plan or a rectified air photograph image. Being easily sorted into groups, these cards proved particularly useful when examining potential typological similarities between sites.
3) Complete sets of copies of earthwork plans and rectified air photograph images transcribed on to Ordnance Survey maps. Plans were re-scaled to 1 : 2500 and air photograph images to 1 : 5000.
4) A set of photocopied 1 : 10,000 Ordnance Survey map extracts showing accurate locations for all sites included on the database.

To ensure consistency, all sites included on this database were verified by the writer; either by means of field visits or by consulting relevant air photographs, geophysical plots or measured survey plans. This process resulted in the exclusion of some 30% of those features listed as possible enclosures in the Somerset Historic Environment Record (1.5). Overall, it is believed that all potentially useful sites have been included on the database and that a representative sample of the enclosure morphologies present in the study area has been obtained.

For the purposes of mapping and concise reference, each site included on the database has been allocated an individual parish-based reference code; for example, WF02 for Staddon Hill Camp, Winsford. Where reference is made to data obtained from individual Somerset HER files, the relevant record number has also been quoted. However, those sites which have been excluded from the study are referred to solely by an HER number. An illustrated catalogue of all sites included on the database is contained in Appendix 1.

1.3 Sources of data for enclosures in the study area.

At the time that this project was initiated, the most comprehensive source of data for enclosures in western Somerset was provided by the Somerset Historic Environment Record (HER). This contained references to over 500 extant enclosures and cropmark sites located within the study area. Of these, many were fragmentary or poorly defined features which had been identified as possible enclosures of uncertain date. Many others were thought likely to be enclosures belonging to the medieval or post-medieval periods.

In addition to the data contained within the Somerset HER, much additional evidence has been obtained from a range of published and unpublished sources and supplemented by observations in the field. These sources varied according to whether the potential sites were extant earthworks or cropmark features and are described in more detail below.

1.3.1 Sources of data relating to extant field monuments in the study area.

The most detailed morphological evidence available relates to those 55 enclosures which, to a greater or lesser degree, survive as field monuments. Of the published sources containing original field observations, Bothamley (1911) and Burrow (1981) were the most frequently consulted during the course of this study. Excavation reports relating to extant monuments at Norton Fitzwarren Camp (NF01; Gray 1908; Ellis 1989), Castle Neroche (CR01; Gray 1903) and Cannington Camp (CN02; Rahtz 1969) provided further important data. Also much used were recent editions of the Ordnance Survey 1 : 2500 plans of the area, which provided reliable measured plans for most of those monuments not recently surveyed by the RCHME or English Heritage.

Of considerable value was the access given to a large body of data held on file by the Somerset Historic Environment Record at County Hall, Taunton. All relevant

documents received from the RCHME and English Heritage were made available, including Monument Protection Programme fieldwork reports, scheduling documents and copies of all recent earthwork surveys and plans. Also retained in the HER files was a miscellany of other relevant documents. These included reports of site visits by county archaeology staff, unpublished field surveys from various sources and copies of correspondence relating to individual sites. For many extant enclosures, the HER files also contained copies of oblique air photographs of various dates and origins.

Other documents consulted in the HER and in the Somerset Studies Library, Taunton included complete sets of Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division record cards and annotated maps for the study area. In addition to the County HER, valuable information including survey reports was also obtained from the Exmoor National Park database.

In conjunction with this documentary research, all accessible extant sites in the area were visited on at least one occasion during the period of study. During these visits, observations were made and measurements taken relating to the location and siting of each enclosure. In addition to the above, a full measured survey was carried out on a previously unrecorded hillfort at Castleman's Hill near Taunton (TR02).

1.3.2 Sources of aerial photographic data for the study area.

a) A brief overview of recorded aerial reconnaissance and research.

Over 80% of the sites included on the database have been revealed through oblique aerial photography. However, as sustained reconnaissance began much later in Somerset than in many other parts of Britain, only a few cropmark enclosures in the study area were located prior to the 1970s (Griffith and Horner 2000).

The first indications that numerous cropmark enclosures awaited discovery appeared during the drought of 1976. These resulted from aerial reconnaissance by Michael Aston, who photographed and published lists of many previously unsuspected sites in the Vale of Taunton and the southern Quantocks, (Aston 1977, 1978).

During the 1970s and 1980s, programmes of air photograph interpretation and transcription covering the Exmoor National Park and the Quantock Hills were carried out by Richard McDonnell (McDonnell 1980, 1982). These were based mainly on

series of vertical air photographs taken between 1946 and 1981 and, although numerous features were recorded, very few potentially early enclosures were located.

It was not until 1989 that a sustained programme of aerial reconnaissance and oblique photography was initiated in western Somerset. Undertaken by Frances Griffith and Bill Horner of Devon County Council this work, although initially supported by English Heritage, has been largely funded by Somerset County Council. Results in the hot, dry summers of 1989 and 1990 were particularly good, with numerous new sites being located in the southern Quantocks and surrounding lowlands (Griffith 1990a, 1990b). Frequent new discoveries continued to be made until 1997, since when poor summer conditions have severely limited the appearance of crop-marks. Overall, this continuing programme of reconnaissance and photography is having a major impact on perceptions of later prehistoric and Roman settlement in the study area and accounts for over 65% of the enclosures included on the database.

b) Sources of oblique air photographic data.

The large majority of the oblique air photographs consulted form part of a substantial collection housed in the Somerset HER. The bulk of this collection consists of the Devon Air Photograph (DAP) series for Somerset, produced since 1989 by Griffith and Horner. However, also included are copies of photographs taken by Aston during the 1970s, a number of infra-red images produced by the Royal Air Force and many photographs purchased from other sources including the National Monuments Record (NMR) and the Cambridge University Air Photograph Collection (CUCAP). In addition to unrestricted access to this material, including loans for scanning purposes, high quality photocopying facilities were also made available. Without this generous assistance, it would not have been possible to undertake this study in its present form.

For practical reasons it was not possible to undertake a full search of the NMR air photograph archive for any additional enclosures not recorded in the Somerset HER. However, limited searches for additional sites were undertaken within small areas selected for more intensive study. Similarly, the CUCAP collection was only consulted in relation to photographs already noted in the county HER.

In total, over 1500 oblique air photographs were examined during the course of the study. A high proportion of these were the result of primary reconnaissance rather than repeat photography (Griffith, 1990a). Thus the majority of the crop-mark

enclosures which have been identified are represented solely by between two and six photographs taken in a single year.

c) Sources of vertical air photographic data.

Three series of black and white vertical air photographs, each providing a complete coverage for western Somerset, were consulted during this study. Housed in the Somerset Studies Library, Taunton, these consist of runs of photographs taken by the Royal Air Force in 1946 (CPE.UK series) and runs produced for Somerset County Council in 1971 (HSL series) and 1981(CS series).

1.3.3 Data obtained from other sources.

In addition to the sources of data outlined above, a more limited amount of evidence has been obtained from elsewhere. With regard to recent work on the Quantock Hills by the Southern Quantock Archaeological Survey, several site visits were made by the writer and copies of preliminary reports and geophysical survey results were obtained prior to full publication. Despite a lack of published or archived records for work carried out during the construction of the M5 motorway in the 1970s, some useful evidence was obtained. This included a measured plan of an enclosure at Poundisford Park (PT01) and manuscript notes and plans relating to a ditched Roman settlement at Maylands near Wellington (WE01,02). Amongst the fieldwork undertaken as part of this study, a geophysical survey of a partial cropmark enclosure at Woodworthy Farm (CP01; 4.2.2) produced valuable additional data and a surface artefact collection and geophysical survey at Hornshay Farm, Nynehead (WE07; 4.3.4c) revealed a previously unrecorded Roman occupation area.

1.4 Methodology for preparing survey plans and air photograph transcriptions for the database.

The production of a complete set of accurate enclosure plans was seen as one of the most important tasks in constructing an effective database. The resulting air photograph transcriptions at a scale of 1 : 5000 and redrawn plans at a scale of 1 : 2500 represent core elements of the database and have proved essential for the visual comparison of enclosure morphology.

1.4.1 Measured survey plans.

Ordnance Survey and RCHME plans for all known extant enclosures in the study area have been redrawn schematically to a common format. Enclosure plans made during the present project have also been redrawn to this format, resulting in a complete set of schematic representations of extant monuments at a scale of 1 : 2500 (Appendix 1). In those few instances where the only evidence for an enclosure is in the form of a geophysical survey or excavation plan, these have been redrawn at a scale of 1 : 5000 and included with the air photograph transcriptions in Appendix 1.

1.4.2 Air photograph rectification and transcription.

It was considered essential that a reasonably accurate transcription should be prepared for each cropmark enclosure identified through aerial photography. For the purposes of this study, the minimum targets for rectification and transcription were considered to be the faithful rendering of enclosure shape and an accuracy of location to within 5-10m of true position.

In general, the quality of the oblique air photographs examined was adequate for the requirements of this study. The large majority had sufficient reference points for rectification purposes and few could be classed as extreme oblique views. However, many images which were poorly defined or partly obscured by shadow required enhancement prior to rectification. In most cases this was achieved by scanning the original photographs into the Adobe Photoshop computer programme and making adjustments to the size, contrast and sharpness of the image.

Despite variations in clarity, the majority of black and white verticals which were scanned responded well to computer enlargement and enhancement. However, only a few cropmarks or soilmarks suggesting early enclosures were apparent, accounting for less than 2% of the total sites recorded on the database. Of the numerous vegetation marks which had previously been identified as possible early enclosures, notably by McDonnell (1980, 1982), a large majority were found to be unconvincing when the scanned images were subjected to enlargement and enhancement. Thus only those few examples which could be confirmed on the ground were rectified and included on the database.

All rectifications of air photograph images were carried out by computer using the Airphoto programme. Most of the resulting transcriptions were produced on

relevant sections of recent 1 : 10,000 Ordnance Survey maps, which were subsequently enlarged and printed at 1 : 5000 for reference and use during fieldwork. However, a few more complex rectifications, such as that required for the Dene Cross area near Bishop's Lydeard (BL02-08), were transcribed directly on to 1 : 2500 Ordnance Survey sheets.

Some difficulties were encountered during the rectification process, mainly through a lack of well defined control points on many photographs. This latter problem largely reflects the nature of the west Somerset landscape, with few buildings, numerous thick hedge lines, obscured field corners and ploughed out field boundaries. Also problematic was the strongly undulating topography in some areas, with frequent changes in the direction and steepness of slopes. However, where comparisons have been made with geophysical survey plans, the results have been generally acceptable, with no significant distortion of enclosure shape being apparent and spatial displacements averaging around 7m. Thus far as can be ascertained, the resulting collection of transcriptions appears to be sufficiently accurate for the purposes of this study.

1.5 Methodology for ranking sites according to the quality of data.

In total, the evidence for 544 possible database entries was examined during the course of this study. In order to organise this data in a form suitable for further analysis, it was necessary to rank each potential entry according to the quality and reliability of the available evidence. This was achieved by assessing each site record and placing it into one of four separate classes of evidence.

The first three classes (A, B, C) represent qualitative assessments of those sites which have been added to the database. The fourth class (D) contains sites recorded in the Somerset HER as 'enclosures' or 'possible enclosures', but which were considered too problematic for inclusion on the database. Details of these excluded sites were, however, retained in a separate file for possible future reference.

- **Class A** contains 218 entries which are sufficiently complete for detailed typological study. Thus they are suitable for full classification by type and shape and also for accurate assessments of internal area, slope and

morphological detail to be made. 43 of these entries are extant field monuments; the remainder being sites revealed by aerial photography, geophysical survey or excavation.

- **Class B** contains 87 entries which are insufficiently complete for full typological study. Although classifiable by type (e.g. curvilinear), detailed assessments of shape cannot be made. However, it has usually been possible to make a reasonable estimate of internal area and slope and some morphological detail can frequently be discerned. This class contains 12 extant monuments; all but 6 of the remainder being air photograph images.

- **Class C** contains 31 entries which, with two exceptions, are fragmentary cropmarks representing probable enclosures. For analytical purposes, these are of very limited use and can only be tentatively described in terms of their possible type affinities. They were, however, considered worthy of inclusion on the database.

- **Class D** contains those 208 potential sites which have been excluded from the database. These were placed into four groups on the basis of the main reason for their exclusion. Thus D1 contains 72 sites which were considered too incomplete or inconclusive to be acceptable. D2 contains 90 recorded sites which, although clearly archaeological, seemed unlikely to represent later prehistoric or Roman enclosures. D3 contains 44 recorded sites which were regarded as doubtful archaeological features and D4 comprises two HER entries which are believed to be incorrect through duplication.

1.6 Methodology for classifying enclosure morphology.

For the purposes of this study, it was necessary to organise a scheme for classifying enclosures which combined the recording of selected morphological attributes with an assessment of the shape characteristics of each site. By doing this it was hoped to create a flexible but standardised method for recording both partial and complete enclosures, irrespective of whether they were standing monuments, cropmarks or plans recorded by geophysical survey.

The scheme outlined below draws heavily on published typological systems and terminologies employed by Johnson and Rose 1982, Whimster 1989, and Edis et al. 1989. It attempts to order the archaeological data obtained for each database entry into a series of attribute groups. The first four of these; enclosure type, enclosure shape, delineation and status are the most widely applicable and can be used in varying degrees to describe most sites. A fifth group contains a number of selected attributes chosen for their potential relevance to this study. Referred to as sub-type attributes, these are of more limited application and record both specific elements of enclosure morphology and relationships between archaeological features.

1.6.1 Enclosure type attributes.

The classification of enclosures into curvilinear, rectilinear and hybrid types according to overall plan form represents a core element of this scheme.

- Curvilinear enclosures ; These are characterised by continuous curving perimeters.
- Rectilinear enclosures ; These have more or less straight sides which are linked by well-defined corners. Examples with one bowed side are also included here.
- Hybrid enclosures ; These possess both straight and curving sides and at least one clearly defined corner.
- Partial enclosures ; These incomplete features can be provisionally assigned to a type group on the basis of what can be discerned of their plan form.
- Probable fragmentary enclosures ; Of very limited value, it is possible to tentatively describe these as showing curvilinear, rectilinear or hybrid features.

1.6.2 Enclosure shape attributes.

For the purposes of this study, the placing of enclosures into defined shape groups is seen as a natural progression from the classification by type described above. Examples of the shapes listed below are shown on Fig. 2.

- Round ; These are circular or near circular plans, which are often slightly irregular.
- Ovoid ; These are more or less elongated curvilinear plans, which are frequently irregular.
- Lobate ; These have complex curvilinear plans with a distinctly lobed appearance.
- Triangular ; These are three-sided rectilinear plans with more or less straight sides and angular or sub-angular corners.
- Square ; These are more or less regular rectilinear plans with four sides of near equal length.
- Oblong ; These are rectilinear plans with two pairs of parallel or near-parallel sides.
- Trapezoidal ; These are four-sided rectilinear plans with two near-parallel sides.
- Polygonal ; This term is applied to all rectilinear and hybrid enclosures with five or more sides.
- Sub-triangular ; These are three-sided hybrid plans with rounded corners and one or more curving sides.
- Quadrangular ; This term is applied to all four-sided hybrid enclosure plans.
- D-shaped ; These have one straight side, with the remainder of the plan being curvilinear.
- Quadrant-shaped ; These have two straight sides which meet at an angle. The remainder of the plan is of curvilinear type.

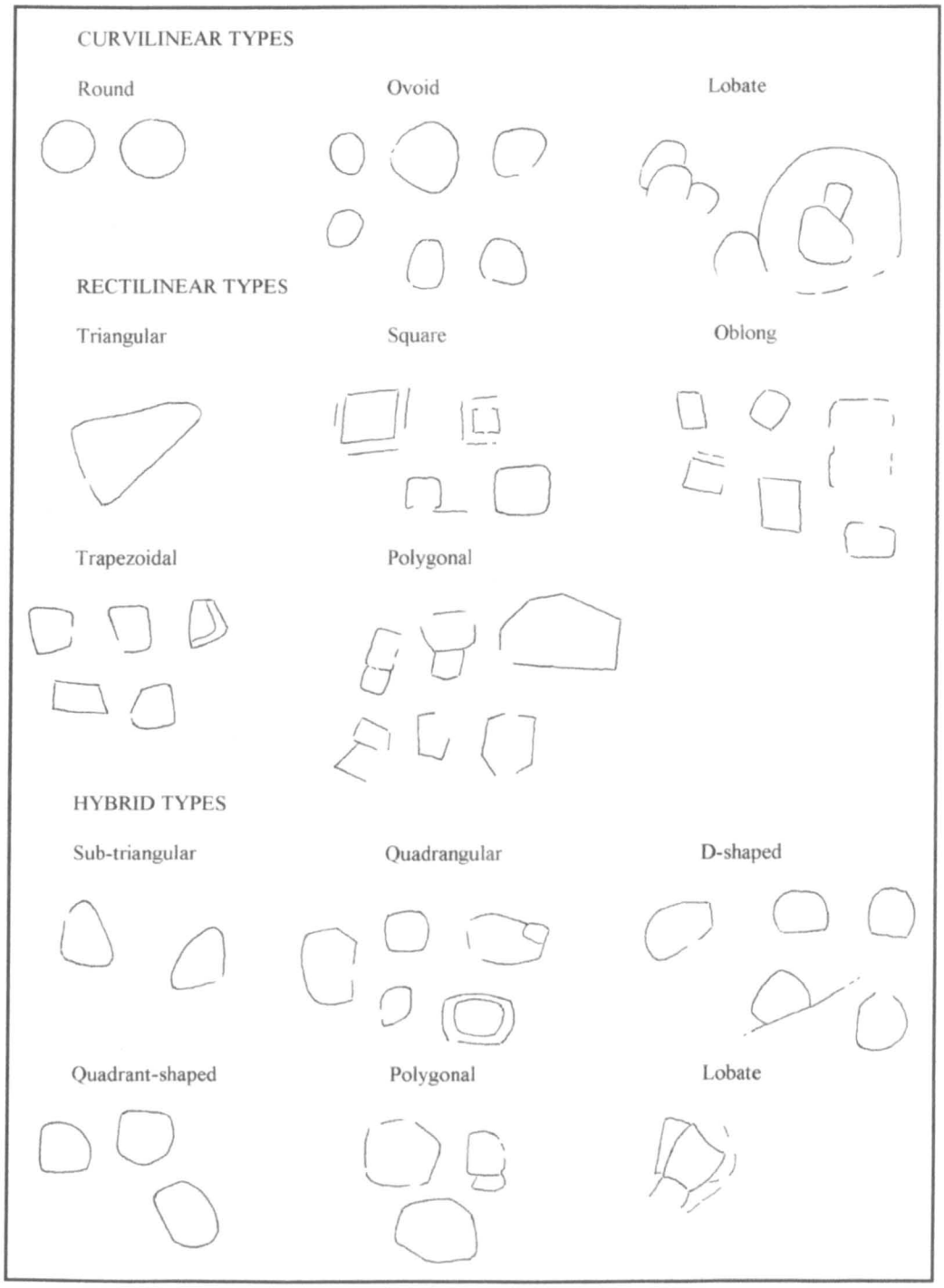


Fig.2 *Examples of enclosure plan shapes.*

(Not to scale)

1.6.3 Additional shape attributes.

In addition to the shape groups outlined above, a number of other attributes have been selected in order to refine the descriptions of enclosure plans:

- Topographic influence ; All database entries record the degree to which enclosure shape appears to have been influenced by natural features such as major changes of slope. The term *major topographic influence* implies that most or all of the enclosure plan is likely to have been substantially influenced by geomorphological factors. However, the plans of enclosures recorded as showing *partial topographic influence* are likely to have been only partially influenced by topography. Where natural features cannot be shown to have played any significant part in determining shape, enclosures are recorded as showing *no clear topographic influence*.

- Regularity of shape ; Plans have been referred to as regular or irregular depending on their degree of conformity to formal geometric shapes.
- Elongation of shape ; A plan may have been recorded as being either long or short depending on whether the ratio of length to breadth is greater or less than 1 : 1.5.
- Angularity of corners ; The terms *angular* and *sub-angular* have been applied to the plans of both hybrid and rectilinear enclosures.

1.6.4 Enclosure delineation.

All database entries fall into one of the following categories:

- Single ditched / banked / scarped enclosures ; These possess no more than one boundary line at any point along their perimeter.
- Double ditched / banked / scarped enclosures ; These are partially or wholly defined by two separate boundary lines.
- Multiple ditched / banked / scarped enclosures ; These are partially or wholly defined by more than two separate boundary lines.

1.6.5 Enclosure status.

All class A enclosures have been placed in one of the following groups, which are based mainly on terminology used by Johnson and Rose (1982):

- Single enclosures ; These seemingly independent enclosures lack any clear evidence for adjoining features.
- Conjoined enclosures ; These consist of two or more apparently independent enclosures which share a common boundary . Normally of rectilinear type.
- Concentric enclosures ; This term applies where an inner enclosure appears to have been encircled by an outer boundary line, resulting in a substantial increase in the total area enclosed.
- Complex enclosures ; These are enclosures of lobate or polygonal shape which appear to consist of multiple compartments or annexes.
- Superimposed enclosures ; This term is used when one enclosure plan clearly overlies a second, presumably earlier one.
- Cross-dyke enclosures ; This term is applied only where a promontory is effectively closed by a substantial cross-dyke.

1.6.6 Sub-type features.

These comprise a number of additional attributes which are relevant to the present study:

- Enclosure size ; Measurements of total area enclosed have been made for all Class A enclosures using schematically redrawn plans or air photograph transcriptions.
- Major scarping ; This attribute applies where the scarping of a natural slope forms the main defining feature along a substantial length of the enclosure boundary.
- Outworks ; These are linear features potentially related to an enclosure. Those lying within 200m of the enclosure are referred to as *adjacent,* whereas those sited further away are recorded as *distant.*
- Paired enclosures ; These are separate enclosures which are sited within 50m of each other.
- Adjacent enclosures ; All separate enclosures located within 200m of each other are referred to as being adjacent.
- Annex(es) ; These are additional enclosed spaces attached to a main enclosure.
- Close-set boundaries ; These are spaced sufficiently close together to have formed a contiguous series of banks, ditches or scarps.

- Wide-spaced boundaries ; These lie sufficiently far apart to have provided an additional enclosed space..
- Developed counterscarp ; This term is applied where a substantial counterscarp bank appears to have formed an additional rampart.
- Developed entrance ; This term encompasses all types of entrance which are more elaborate than a simple gap.
- Corridor approaches ; These include the ditched approaches of 'banjo' enclosures and the elongated entrance passageways which characterise some hill-forts and multiple enclosure sites.

1.7 Obtaining and recording data relating to enclosure location.

In order to analyse those elements of the landscape which may have influenced the siting of enclosures, it was first necessary to identify and record data relating to both the general location and the more precise siting of individual examples. Not all of the attributes described below have been recorded for all enclosures. This applies particularly to most small or partial examples known only as crop-marks, where more precise data such as that relating to interior gradients and changes of slope was not obtainable.

- Elevation. For each enclosure, the maximum elevation in metres OD has been recorded. This data has been obtained from spot heights or estimated from the contour lines shown on the relevant 1 : 10,000 Ordnance Survey sheets.
- Average gradients. The average slope gradients for enclosure locations have also been calculated from contour evidence. However, these do not always accurately reflect internal enclosure gradients and are only used for general comparative purposes.
- Interior gradients. Gradients for some visited sites have been calculated from accurate slope measurements made with an Abney level.
- Major changes / breaks of slope. These have been recorded when they occur in close proximity to or within an enclosure. Both map contour evidence and field observation have been used to obtain these data.
- Aspect. This attribute has been determined from Ordnance Survey map evidence and, where possible, checked in the field.

- Arc of visibility. This represents the field of vision from within an enclosure and has been recorded for all extant enclosures visited.
- Major sites visible (i.e., hillforts and other large enclosures). These have been noted in the field for all sites visited and calculated from map evidence for the remainder.
- Dominance of enclosure location. This attribute has been applied mainly to larger enclosures in the area and has been determined both from map evidence and from field observation. It relates to the visual impact of enclosures on the landscape, especially when viewed from a distance. Enclosures located in *dominant* positions can be seen for at least one kilometre from every direction and are normally sited on hill-tops. Enclosures in *sub-dominant* positions are also clearly visible from distances exceeding one kilometre, but not from all directions. These are normally sited on hill-slopes or promontories. Sites in *non-dominant* positions occur in locations which provide only limited visual impact and can usually only be seen from distances of under one kilometre.
- Water supply The evidence for the nearest water supply for individual enclosures has come mainly from large scale Ordnance Survey maps supplemented by some field observation. The water sources recorded are thought likely to be most accurate for areas with well-defined springs and stream valleys. However, the identification of probable sources was more difficult in lowland areas with gentle relief, where much diversion of watercourses for industrial and agricultural purposes has occurred in medieval or recent times.
- Geology Details of drift and solid geology relating to all recorded enclosures have been obtained from the British Geological Survey 1 : 50,000 sheets covering the area. Observations of visible surface geology and soils have been made during all field visits and these have been added to the database.

Chapter Two : Examining the landscape evidence.

This chapter deals with the general distribution and siting of enclosures across the study area. It is primarily concerned with identifying broad patterns relating to both geographical distribution and to a series of selected topographical attributes.

In order to provide the largest possible samples for analysis, enclosures have been considered solely in terms of type and size. This was found to be the most effective means of investigating relationships between enclosure distribution and the attributes of elevation, slope, geology, water supply and aspect.

The aim of this part of the study is to provide basic background data for interpreting perceived changes in settlement patterns across the study area. It is also intended to serve as a framework within which more specific patterns of enclosure siting and distribution can be identified and assessed.

2.1 General patterns of enclosure distribution across the study area.

Across western Somerset the recorded distribution of enclosures is uneven, with large areas having produced little or no evidence and others, often much smaller, yielding dense concentrations of sites. In order to examine this overall pattern, it has been necessary to divide the study area into a series of smaller geographical units. These are shown in map form on Fig 3, with statistics relating to all class A and B enclosures being contained in Table 1.

Geographical unit	Unit total	Class A	Class B	Class C	Extant sites
Exmoor west of line of Avill and Exe valleys	26	18	8	0	(26)
Central Brendon Hills	7	6	1	0	(6)
Northern Quantocks	2	2	0	0	(2)
Blackdown Hills	7	6	1	0	(5)
Southern Quantocks	72	44	19	9	(4)
Northern edges of Brendon Hills	19	14	1	4	(4)
Eastern edges of Brendon Hills	26	14	10	2	(0)
Southern edges of Brendon Hills	18	14	4	0	(4)
Vale of Taunton	90	56	23	11	(3)
Lowlands east of the Quantock Hills	52	35	13	4	(1)
Coastal lowlands north of Exmoor / Brendon massif	16	9	7	0	(0)
Lowlands east of the Vale of Taunton	1	0	0	1	(0)
Total enclosures	**336**	**218**	**87**	**31**	(55)

***Table 1** : The occurrence of all class A , B and C enclosures within geographical units.*

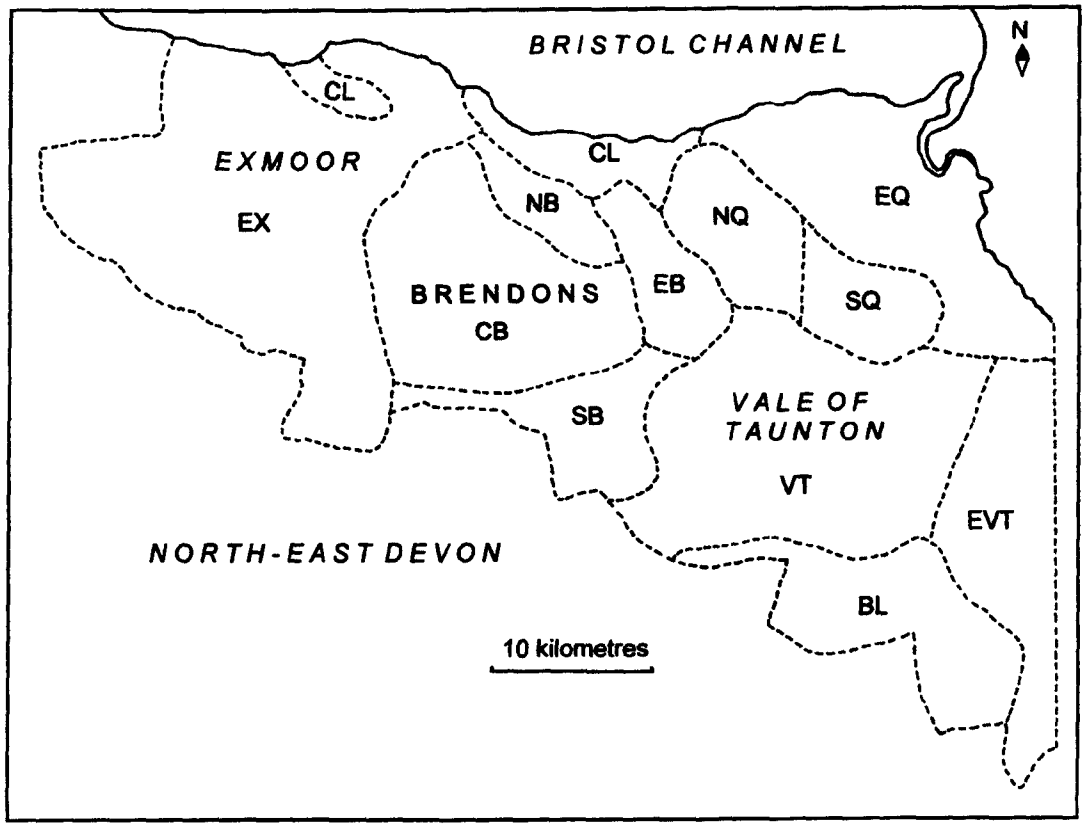
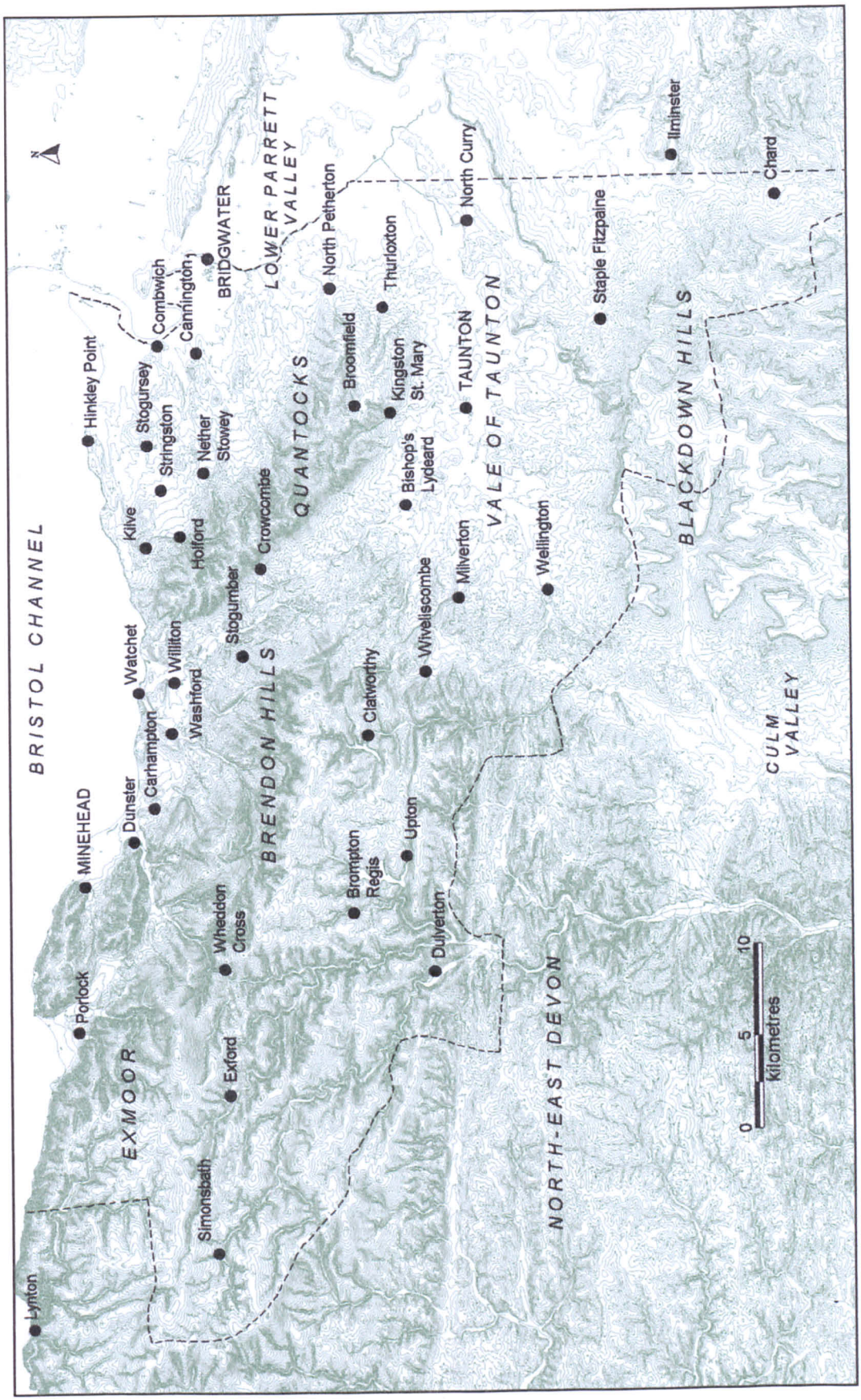


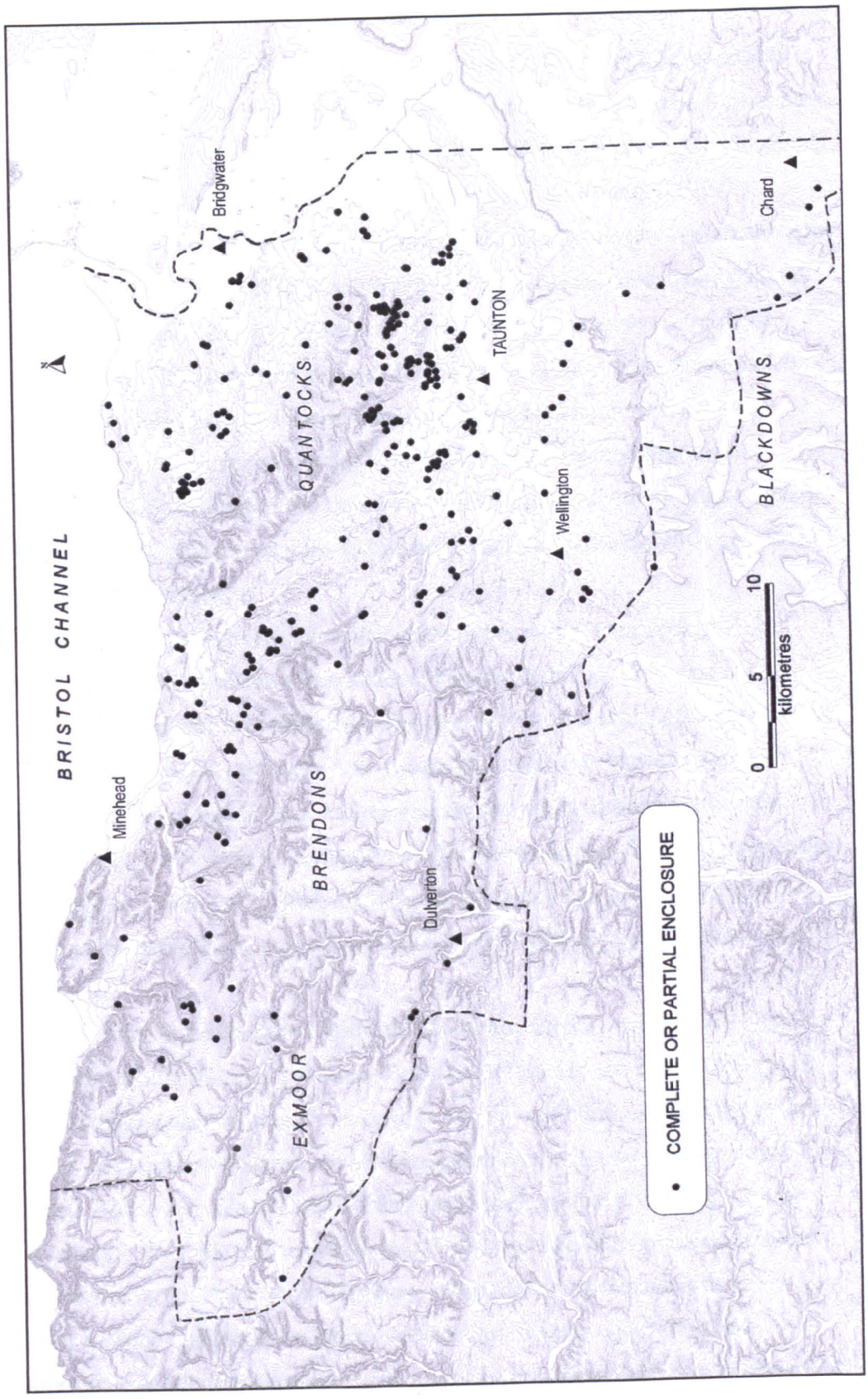
Fig. 3 Map showing the geographical units tabulated in Table 1 and used to describe the general distribution of recorded enclosures.

EX = Exmoor ; **CB** = central Brendons ; **NQ** = northern Quantocks ; **BL** = Blackdowns ; **SQ** = southern Quantocks ; **NB** = northern edges of Brendons ; **EB** = eastern edges of Brendons ; **SB** = southern edges of Brendons ; **VT** = Vale of Taunton ; **EVT** = lowlands east of the Vale of Taunton ; **EQ** = lowlands east of Quantock Hills ; **CL** = coastal lowlands north of Exmoor and the Brendons.



(**Key** : Dashed line denotes boundary of study area.)

Fig. 4 *General reference map for enclosure distributions.*



(**KEY** : Dashed line denotes boundary of study area.)

Fig. 5 *The overall distribution of Class A and B enclosures in the study area.*

From the data shown on Table1 and Fig.5, it is clear that a high proportion of recorded enclosures occur in the north-eastern part of the study area. These sites are located mainly in the Vale of Taunton, the southern Quantocks, the lowlands to the east of the Quantocks and along the fringes of the Brendon Hills.

Within the Vale of Taunton, the majority of recorded enclosures occur along its northern edge between Bishop's Lydeard and Thurloxton. Here, mainly south facing slopes underlain by mudstones, sandstones and extensive spreads of gravel border the southern fringes of the Quantock Hills. Across the remainder of the Vale, however, the distribution of evidence is more dispersed, with a diffuse scatter of enclosures being recorded between Bishop's Lydeard, Milverton and Wellington. To the south of Taunton, the southern edge of the Vale is largely covered by permanent pasture and has produced little convincing evidence for enclosures.

Underlain by palaeozoic slates, the southern part of the Quantock Hills has been the subject of sustained aerial reconnaissance and has produced a large amount of evidence for enclosures. The densest concentrations of sites recorded to date occur within an area of c.12 square km which lies between Kingston St. Mary, Broomfield and Thurloxton. Here, several major clusters are present, giving rise to an average density of 3.3 sites per square km. This area overlooks and adjoins another of similar dimensions which extends southwards into the Vale of Taunton. Here, an average density of 1.6 sites per square km has been recorded.

To the east of the Quantock Hills, the landscape slopes in an easterly direction towards the alluvial flats bordering Bridgwater Bay and the Parrett estuary. A substantial number of enclosures have been recorded from within 6 km of the coast, with marked clusters occurring between Nether Stowey, Stogursey and Kilve. Along the eastern fringe of this unit, small groups of sites are located adjacent to the Parrett estuary between Cannington and Bridgwater and in the vicinity of North Petherton. Elsewhere, evidence for enclosures is more dispersed and appears to be largely absent from the mesozoic clays and limestones bordering the coast and from the recent alluvial deposits of the Lower Parrett valley.

To the west of the Quantock Hills, limited aerial reconnaissance has produced important results in areas previously lacking any evidence for enclosures. On the

northern fringes of the Brendon Hills to the south of Washford, a dispersed scatter of cropmark sites occurs on slate and pebble bed formations at elevations of between c.80-200m.OD. This unit overlooks and merges into the coastal lowlands between Williton and Carhampton, where a diffuse scatter of cropmark enclosures has also been located. To the south and west of Carhampton, several extant enclosures occur on palaeozoic grits, with a recently discovered example being located in Timberscombe Wood.

Aerial reconnaissance along the north-eastern edge of the Brendons has also revealed significant clusters of enclosures, particularly within the parish of Stogumber. Both in terms of geology and topography, this unit has close parallels with the southern Quantocks and this is reflected in the siting and typology of the enclosures which have been identified.

Along the southern fringes of the Brendons, there is a dispersed scatter of enclosures extending from north of Bishop's Lydeard to the Devon border. This includes a significant group lying to the south-west of Wiveliscombe, which comprises both cropmark sites and an extant hillfort overlooking the upper Tone valley.

Beyond those parts of the study area described above, the recorded distribution of enclosures is more thinly dispersed and relies heavily on evidence from extant monuments, especially in the western uplands of Exmoor and the Brendon Hills.

The Exmoor / Brendon massif is traditionally separated into two parts by the line of the A396 road between Dunster and Tiverton, which follows the valleys of the Rivers Avill, Quarme and Exe. To the west of this line, Exmoor is the most elevated and extensive part of the West Somerset uplands.

In spite of extensive field survey and aerial reconnaissance, large tracts of central and southern Exmoor have failed to produce any evidence for enclosures of probable later prehistoric or Roman date (McDonnell 1985; Riley and Wilson-North 2001, 8-15). The majority of recorded sites lie to the north and south of a high central ridge, which runs in an east-west direction from Dunkery Hill to the Chains. Most enclosures occur on the northern, seaward side of this ridge, the majority being associated with stream valleys leading to the low lying Vale of Porlock. Although containing an abundance of extant features of earlier prehistoric date, the central ridge itself has produced only very limited evidence for probable early enclosures. To the south of the ridge, the few enclosures

identified have potentially significant associations with the deeply incised valleys of the Exe and Barle river systems. All recorded enclosures on the Exmoor uplands are extant and represent 47% of all known earthwork sites in the study area.

To the east of the Exe / Avill valley system, the uplands of the Brendon Hills are of lower average elevation than the central parts of Exmoor. Aerial reconnaissance has produced little of potential significance in the higher central areas, which may be partly due to the high incidence of afforestation and permanent pasture. However, the survival of many round barrows suggests that, as on central Exmoor, the absence of enclosures in the central Brendons might reflect a genuine gap in the distribution of these monuments. The few enclosures which have been recorded are situated around the margins of the upland area at over 250mOD.

The northern unit of the Quantock Hills is more elevated and of stronger relief than its southern counterpart. Despite extensive aerial photography and some field reconnaissance only two convincing enclosures have been identified, both of which are large extant monuments associated with linear cross-dykes. However as is the case for central Exmoor and the Brendons, a substantial amount of evidence for earlier prehistoric activity, mainly in the form of round barrows, has been recorded.

To the south of the Vale of Taunton, the Blackdown Hills have produced generally poor results for aerial reconnaissance, with only two small cropmark enclosures being recorded on the database. Although a number of extant features, including a putative hillfort at Knapp Hill (HER No. 53266), are described as enclosures in the Somerset HER, field reconnaissance by the writer has shown that most of these are unsuitable for inclusion in this study. Of the remaining five, four are located at the eastern end of the hills between Taunton and Chard, with a single example occurring at the western end above Wellington. .

The lowlands lying to the east of the Vale of Taunton represent a significant hiatus in the distribution of evidence. Relatively limited aerial reconnaissance appears to have been undertaken, with only a single fragmentary enclosure being recorded by oblique air photography. Although vertical air coverage has revealed some sites in the Chard and Ilminster areas, almost all of these are

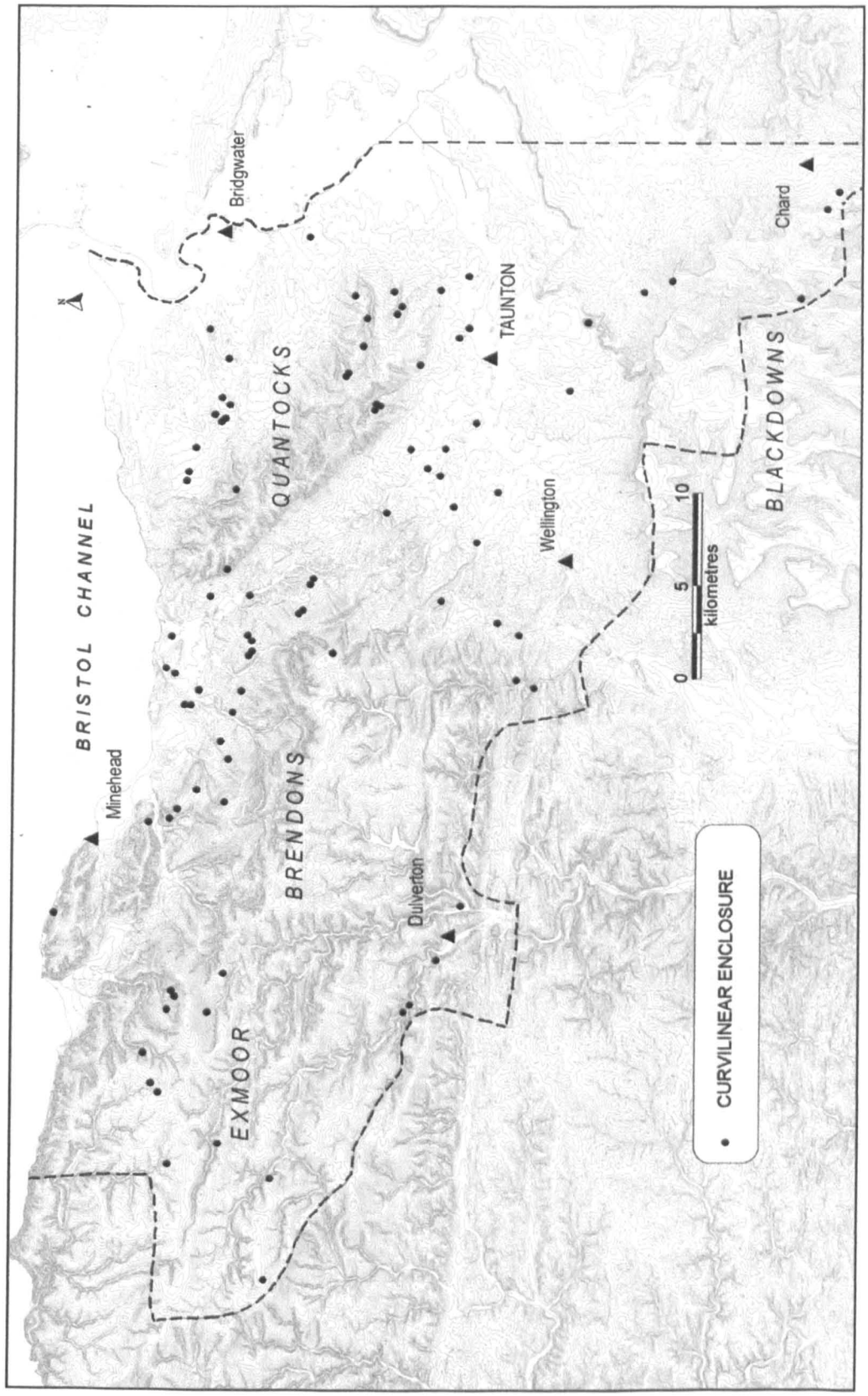
likely to be of medieval or later date and are thus excluded from this study. No extant monuments have been identified, although some casual finds of Roman date are recorded in the Somerset HER and County Museum databases.

Although there is sufficient evidence to suggest that the record for early enclosures in this unit is inadequate, it is possible that factors other than a lack of archaeological survey may partly account for this. For example, to the west of Ilminster a broad tract underlain by Jurassic shales and limestones was formerly covered by the medieval forest of Neroche (Havinden 1981, 174-8). Here, it seems possible that the woodlands and commons of the medieval period may have perpetuated a landscape which existed during the later prehistoric and Roman periods, with less early settlement occurring than in adjacent, more productive areas such as the Vale of Taunton. Similarly on the alluvial wetland areas of Northmoor, West Sedgemoor and the lower Tone valley, large areas of medieval and post-medieval reclamation may account for significant gaps in the recorded distribution of enclosures.

2.2 The distribution of the classes of evidence for enclosures.

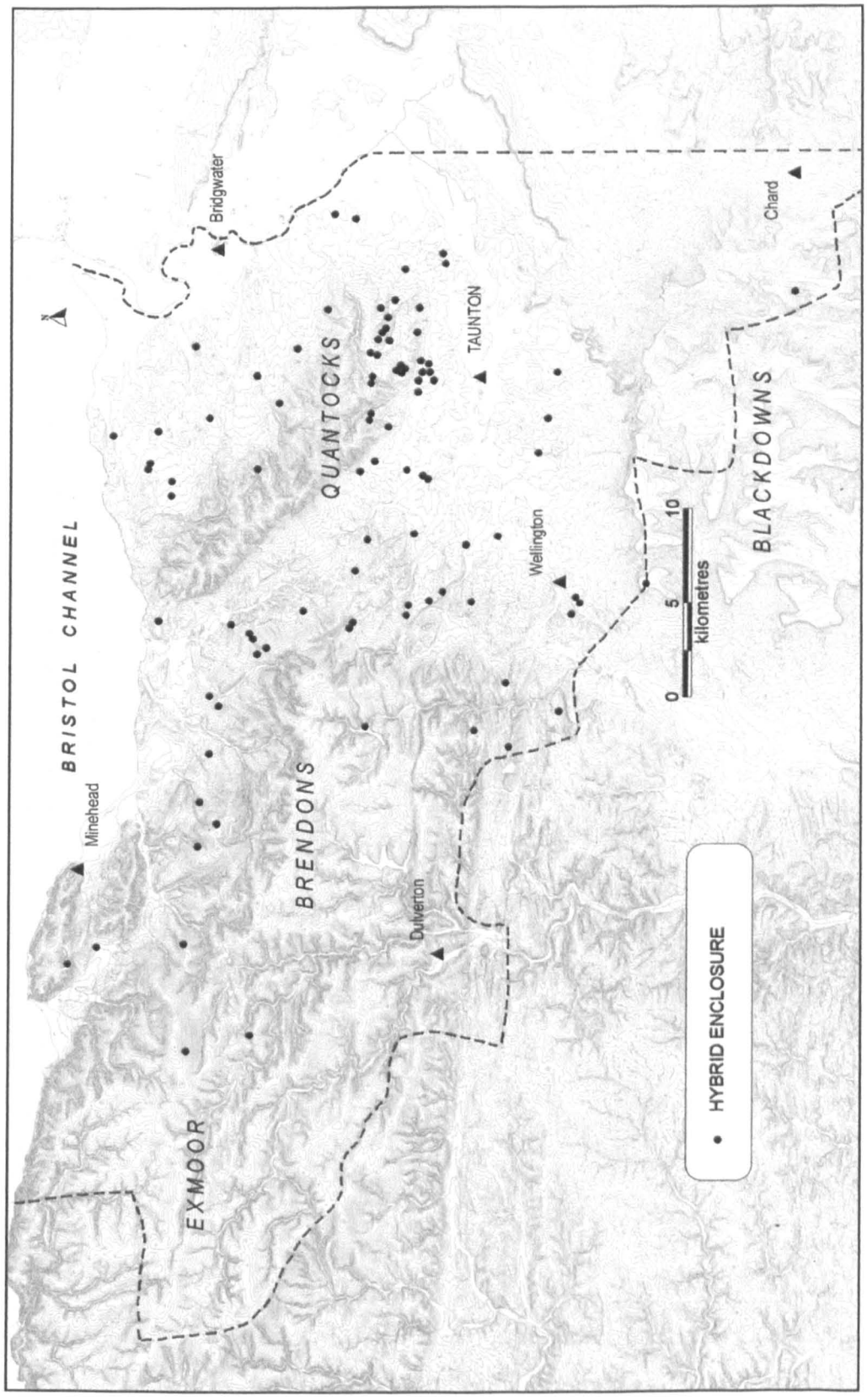
Across the study area, the potential value of the database for analytical purposes varies considerably, both in terms of enclosure sample sizes and the quality of the recorded evidence.

As indicated by Table1, enclosures belonging to class A, which are suitable for analysis by both type and shape, comprise 65% of the total sites recorded. With the exception of the lowlands east of Taunton, these form the main source of evidence in all of the geographical units outlined above and are strongly represented in the southern Quantocks, the Vale of Taunton and to the east of the Quantocks. Partial enclosures belonging to class B, which are suitable for analysis by type only, comprise 26% of the total and show a broadly similar distribution to class A enclosures. Class C fragmentary enclosures, which are of little analytical value, form only 9% of the total database and are mainly confined to the Vale of Taunton, the southern Quantocks and the fringes of the Brendon Hills.



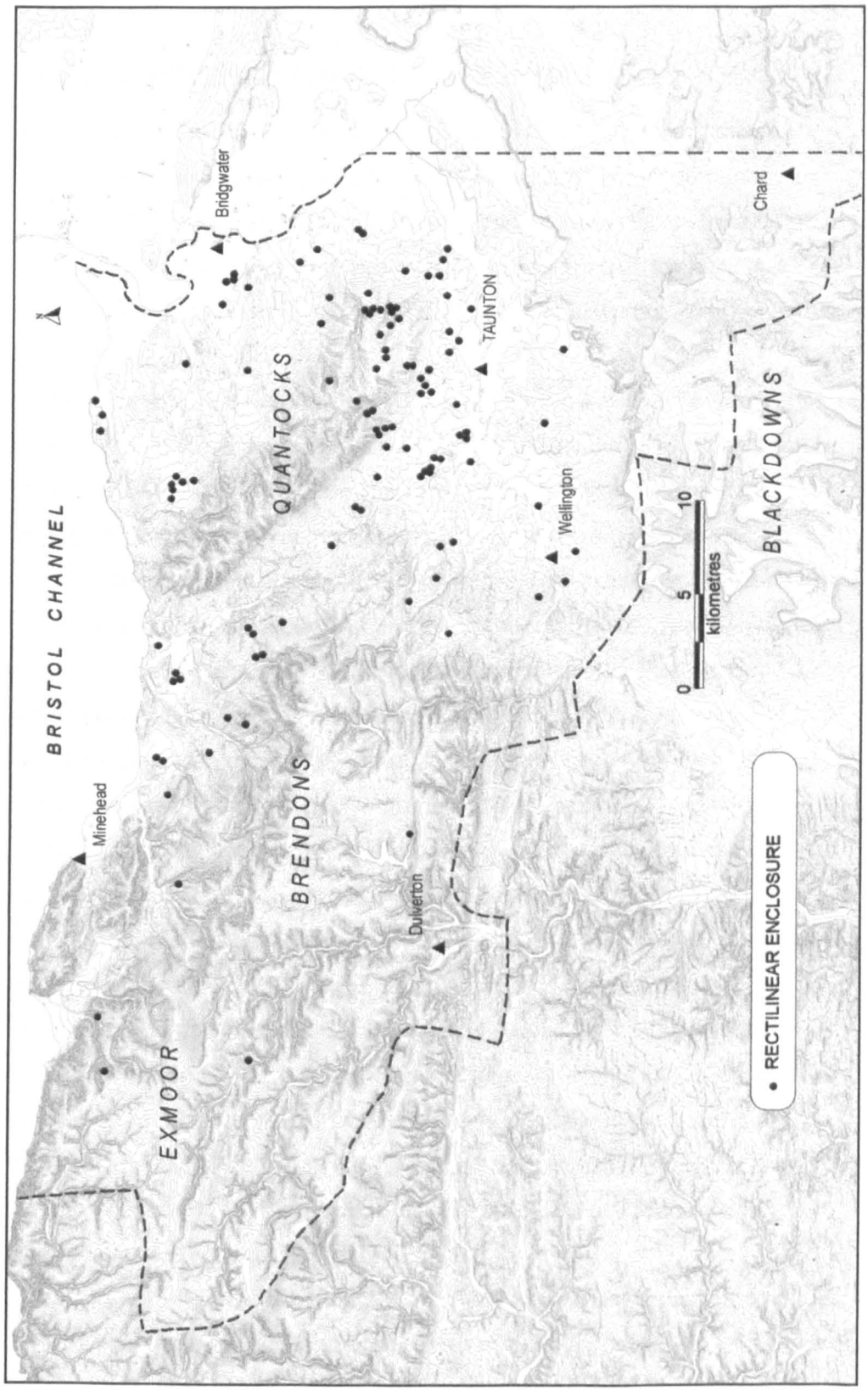
(**KEY** : Dashed line denotes boundary of study area.)

Fig. 6 *The distribution of Class A and B curvilinear enclosures.*



(**KEY**: Dashed line denotes boundary of study area.)

Fig. 7 *The distribution of Class A and B hybrid enclosures.*



(**KEY** : dashed line denotes boundary of study area.)

Fig. 8 *The distribution of Class A and B rectilinear enclosures.*

2.3 The general distribution of enclosures by type.

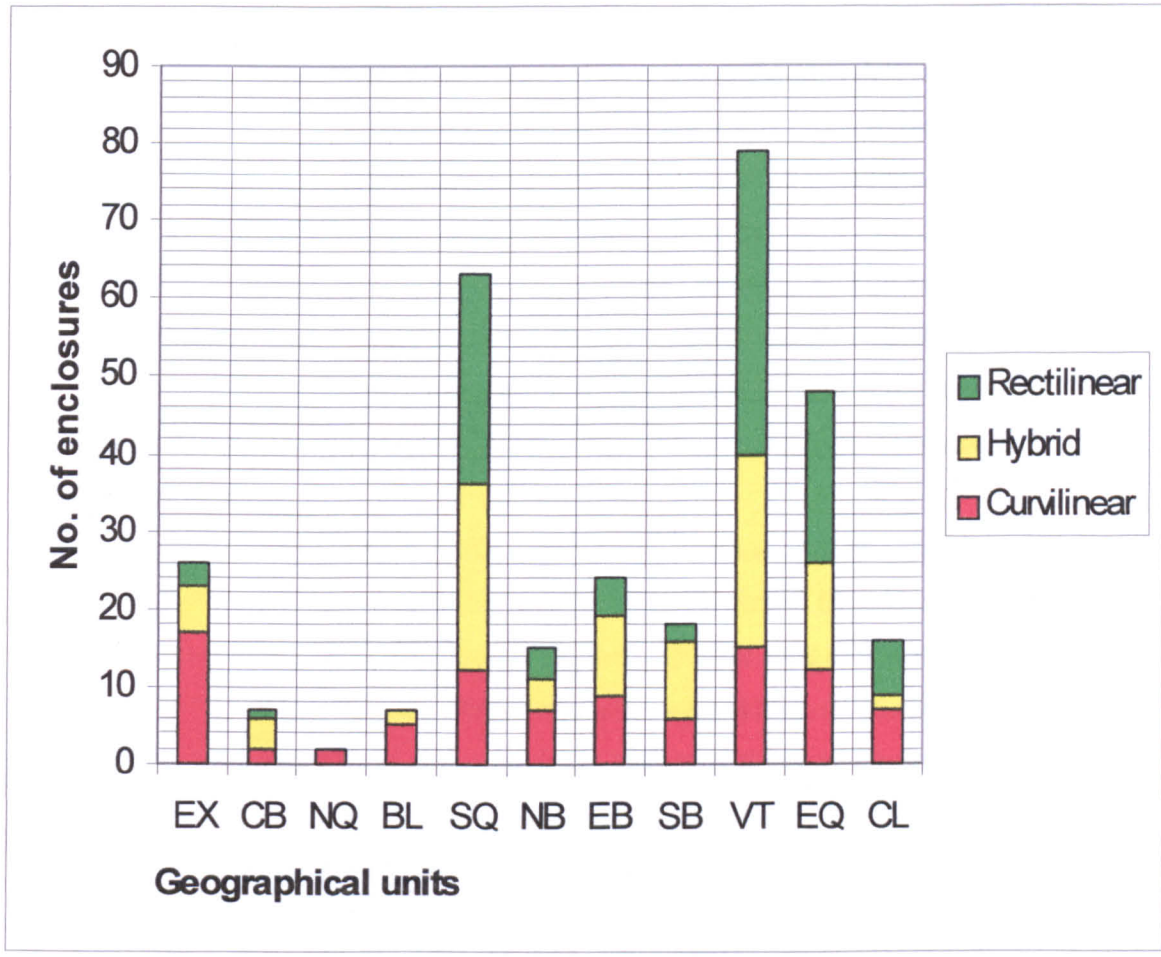
As noted above, all enclosures in classes A and B are suitable for classification by type. As these type groups are relatively large, they are able to provide an overview of the changes which occur in enclosure morphology across the study area. The overall distribution of enclosure types is shown on Figs 6, 7 and 8, with numerical data relating to the separate geographical units being contained in Fig. 9 (chart).

Enclosures of curvilinear type are widely distributed across the region (Fig. 6). In proportional terms they are best represented on Exmoor, where they form 65% of classifiable sites. Although sample sizes are very small, curvilinear enclosures also appear to outnumber rectilinears in the other upland units. Curvilinears are also well represented on the lower slopes of the Brendon Hills, especially along the northern fringe where they form 46% of classifiable sites and 44% of those located on the adjacent coastal lowlands. This type is proportionally least well represented in eastern parts of the study area, forming only 19% of sites in the Vale of Taunton and the southern Quantocks and 25% of those situated in the lowlands to the east of the Quantocks.

Enclosures of hybrid type are best represented along the eastern and southern edges of the Brendon Hills where, at 42% and 62% of classified sites respectively, they are the dominant type present (Fig. 7). However, along the northern edge of the Brendons and on Exmoor, hybrid enclosures are outnumbered by curvilinears. On the adjacent coastal lowlands, hybrids form only 12% of sites and are outnumbered by both curvilinears and rectilinears. Further to the east, substantial numbers of hybrids occur in the Vale of Taunton, the southern Quantocks and the lowlands east of the Quantocks, where they form 32%, 38% and 29% of sites respectively. However, in each of these areas they are outnumbered by rectilinear enclosures.

Of the three types, rectilinear enclosures show the clearest distribution pattern, with 80% occurring in the north-eastern part of the study area (Fig. 8). They are the dominant type in the Vale of Taunton, the southern Quantocks and the lowlands east of the Quantocks, where they represent 49%, 43% and 46% of classified sites respectively. Further west, there are smaller but significant

numbers of rectilinears along the eastern and northern edges of the Brendons, where they form 21% and 27% of sites respectively. Despite the small sample



EX = Exmoor ; **CB** = central Brendons ; **NQ** = northern Quantocks ; **BL** = Blackdowns ; **SQ** = southern Quantocks ; **NB** = northern edges of Brendons ; **EB** = eastern edges of Brendons ; **SB** = southern edges of Brendons ; **VT** = Vale of Taunton ; **EVT** = lowlands east of the Vale of Taunton ; **EQ** = lowlands east of Quantock Hills ; **CL** = coastal lowlands north of Exmoor and the Brendons.

Fig. 9 *The distribution of enclosure types within each geographical unit.*

size the number of rectilinears recorded on the adjacent coastal plain, which represents 44% of sites in this unit, is of potential significance. Elsewhere in the study area, including all of the main upland units, very few enclosures of rectilinear type have been recorded.

Given the uneven distribution of the evidence, it is difficult to delineate clear patterns of change in the relative proportions of enclosure types across the study area. However it is apparent that, in the western uplands of Exmoor and the central Brendons, curvilinear enclosures are the dominant type, forming 58% of the combined sample for these units. Exmoor also contains the highest number of curvilinears within any of the units. This contrasts markedly with the situation in the east of the study area, where curvilinears form only 21% of the combined samples for the Vale of Taunton, the southern Quantocks and the lowlands east of the Quantocks.

In the case of rectilinear enclosures the reverse situation appears to apply, with only 12% of recorded enclosures on Exmoor and the central Brendons being of this type, compared to 46% of the total recorded for the Vale of Taunton, the southern Quantocks and the lowlands east of the Quantocks. As shown on Fig. 8, the distribution of rectilinears extends on to the lower slopes of the northern and eastern Brendons; the most elevated example occurring at a little over 200m.OD. However, the absence of any evidence for enclosures in the uplands immediately west of this raises questions regarding the validity of this perceived distribution pattern.

In the case of hybrid enclosures, a general pattern of distribution across the study area is less easy to discern. Thus in the west they represent 30% of all recorded sites on Exmoor and the central Brendons and, in the east, 32% of the total for the Vale of Taunton. However, in proportional terms they are best represented between elevations of 70m.OD and 250m.OD in the southern Quantocks and along the eastern and southern edges of the Brendons. This may suggest some slight preference for areas of intermediate elevation which border the major lowland units.

2.4 The general distribution of enclosures in relation to elevation and slope.

In this section, a detailed review of the distribution of all class A and B enclosures in relation to elevation and slope will be undertaken. Potentially having an impact on many aspects of the environment including climate, drainage and land use, elevation and slope are probably the most important of the attributes relating to enclosure location which will be examined in this chapter. As relevant data was obtained for all 305 complete and partial enclosures on the database, large samples of sites were available for use in the following analyses.

2.4.1 The general distribution of enclosures in relation to elevation.

Based on recorded data, each enclosure has been placed into one of the following elevation groups:-

Low elevation – 6-100m.OD.

Low intermediate elevation – 101-200m.OD.

High intermediate elevation – 201-300m.OD.

High elevation – 301-455m.OD.

Fig. 10 shows the numerical distribution of all extant and non-extant enclosures within the four elevation groups. Representing 50% of the sample, a total of 153 enclosures are located below 101m.OD. Of these, only five (3%) are extant or part-extant, although air photographic evidence suggests that at least three more may have been so recently. Between 101-200m.OD, the low intermediate elevation group contains 100 enclosures, which represents 33% of the sample. Of these, a total of thirteen (13%) are extant or part-extant.

Above 200m.OD the situation changes markedly, with only 10% and 7% of the total sample being contained within the high intermediate and high elevation groups respectively. However, the proportion of the evidence derived from extant field monuments increases dramatically, representing 63% of sites located between 201-300m.OD and all recorded enclosures located over 300m.OD.

These data clearly illustrate the nature of the database, with a strong numerical and proportional bias towards air photographic and geophysical evidence at elevations below 200m.OD and a heavy dependence on extant monuments at higher elevations.

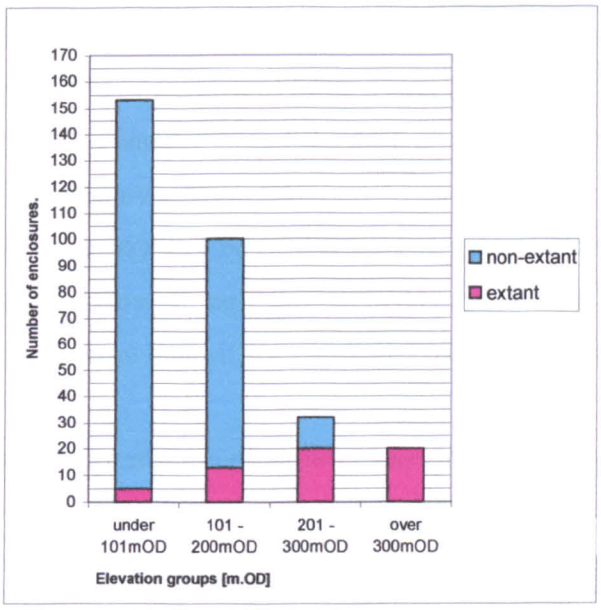


Fig.10 *The numerical distribution of extant and non-extant enclosures in relation to elevation.*

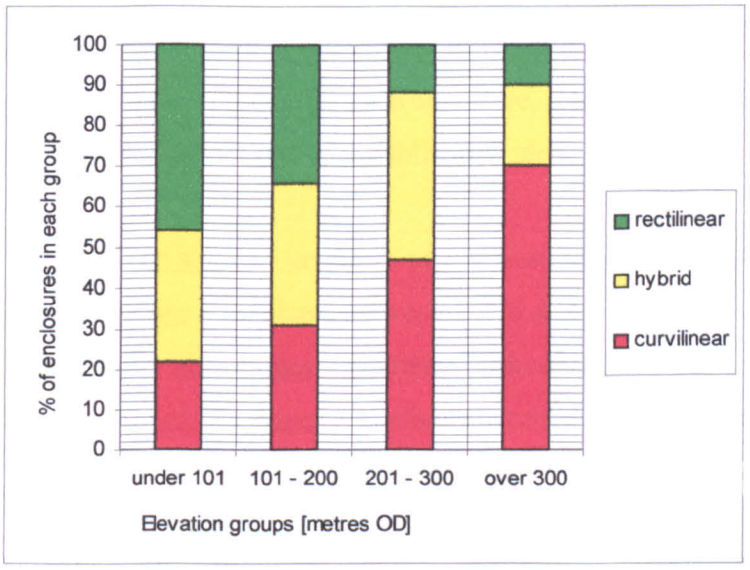


Fig. 11 *The proportion of each enclosure type within each elevation group.*

Fig. 11 shows the representation of each enclosure type within each elevation group. In the case of curvilinear enclosures, there is a clear pattern showing an increase in relative proportion with increasing elevation; rising from 22% of the low elevation group to 70% of enclosures located over 300m.OD. For rectilinear enclosures the pattern is reversed, falling from 46% of the low elevation group to only 10% of sites located over 300m.OD.

To a large extent these results may be related to geographical distribution, as curvilinear enclosures are most strongly represented in the western uplands of the study area whereas a large majority of rectilinear forms occur in the mainly lowland east.

However, for hybrid enclosures the situation is less clearly defined. These are best represented in the intermediate elevation groups, forming 35% of enclosures between 101m and 200m.OD and 41% of those between 201m and 300m.OD. With the exception of the high elevation group, there is a small increase in the proportion of hybrids with increasing elevation and in this respect their distribution more closely resembles the pattern for curvilinears than for rectilinears.

2.4.2 The general distribution of enclosures in relation to slope.

In order to analyse the data recorded for each enclosure, it has been necessary to place the recorded gradients into one of the following slope groups:-

Very steep slopes – gradients of 1 in 6 or steeper.
Steep slopes – gradients between 1 in 6 and 1 in 10.
Moderate-steep slopes – gradients between 1 in 11 and 1 in 15.
Moderate-gentle slopes – gradients between 1 in 16 and 1 in 20.
Gentle slopes – gradients between 1 in 21 and 1 in 25.
Very gentle slopes – gradients of 1 in 25 or gentler.

Fig.12 shows the numerical distribution of all enclosures in relation to slope. A total of 79 sites, representing 26% of the sample, occur on slopes of between 1 in 6 and 1 in 10, with a further nine (3%) being located on very steep slopes.

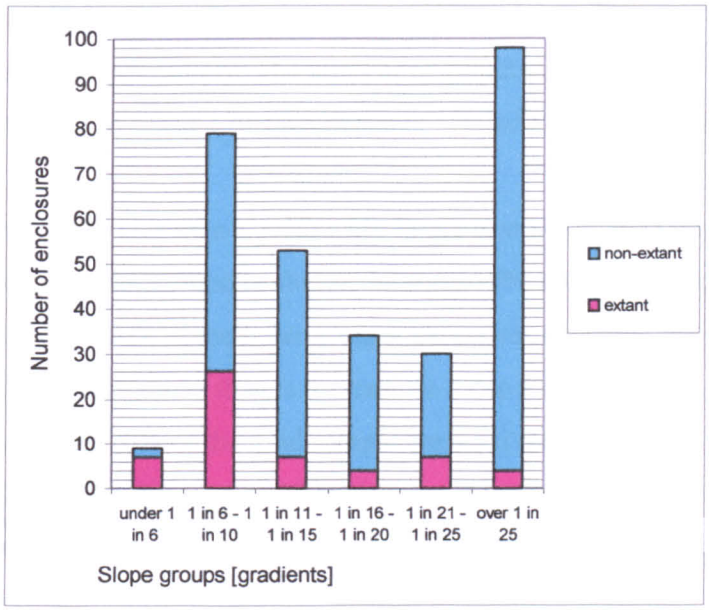


Fig.12. The numerical distribution of extant and non-extant enclosures in relation to slope

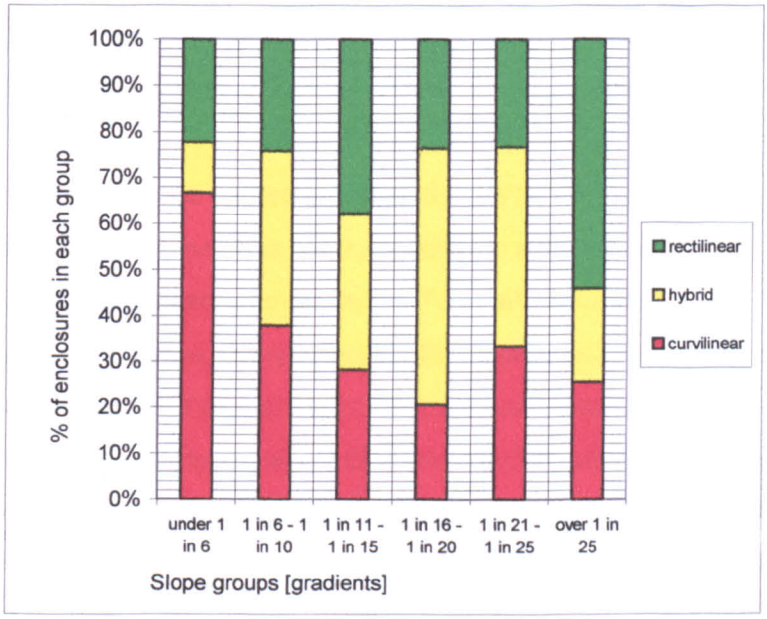


Fig.13. The proportion of each enclosure type within each slope group.

There appears to be a marked correlation between steep slopes and extant sites, with the latter representing 77% and 33% of those enclosures located on very

steep and steep slopes respectively. The number of extant enclosures occurring on slopes of between 1 in 6 and 1 in 10 represents 47% of the total for the study area.

In the case of moderate slopes, a significantly larger number of sites occur on moderate-steep than moderate-gentle slopes, forming 18% and 11% of the total sample respectively. In both of the latter groups, extant sites account for a much smaller proportion of enclosures than is the case on steep and very steep slopes.

On gentle slopes, only 10% of the total sample are sited on slopes of between 1 in 21 and 1 in 25. However, a total of 98 enclosures, representing 32% of the sample, are located on slopes gentler than 1 in 25. Of these, only four examples are extant.

Fig.13 shows the proportion of each enclosure type represented in each slope group. In the case of curvilinear enclosures, the highest proportions occur on steep and very steep slopes, forming 41% of all sites on slopes of 1 in 10 or steeper. They are less well represented in the moderate and gentle slope groups, where they represent an average of 27% of all sites on slopes gentler than 1 in 10.

For rectilinear enclosures the pattern is reversed, with 54% of sites on very gentle slopes being of this type. This contrasts with the situation in the other slope groups, where rectilinears average only 27% of all enclosures.

As was the case for elevation, the relationship between hybrid enclosures and slope is less clearly defined. Proportionally, they are best represented on moderate-gentle and gentle slopes, where they average 50% of all enclosures. However, they are the least well represented type on very gentle slopes, where they comprise only 21% of the total for the group.

2.4.3 General correlations between elevation, slope and the siting of enclosures.

In order to review the general relationships between elevation and slope in the context of enclosure location, a correlation of the data presented in 2.4.2 has been undertaken. For this purpose, the number of slope groups has been reduced to three, and consists of steep slopes (steeper than 1 in 11), moderate slopes (1 in

11 to 1 in 20) and gentle slopes (gentler than 1 in 20). The results of this correlation are shown numerically in Fig.14 and as percentages in Table 2.

Elevation group	% on steep slopes	% on moderate slopes	% on gentle slopes
under 101mOD	14	22	64
101-200mOD	31	45	24
201-300mOD	68	19	13
over 300mOD	70	15	15

Table 2. *The proportions of enclosures on steep, moderate and gentle slopes within each elevation group.*

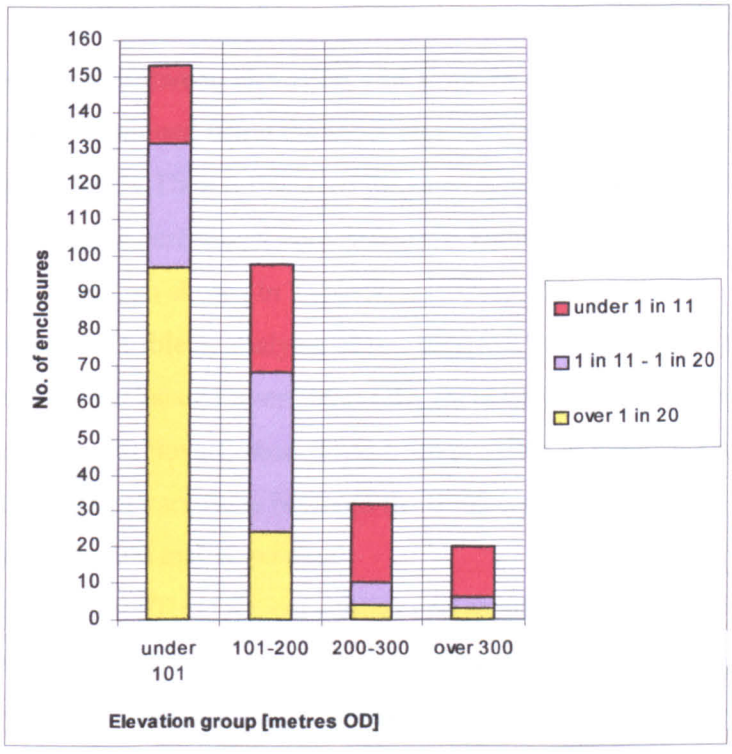


Fig. 14 *Correlation of elevation and slope in relation to enclosure location.*

From these correlated data it is clear that, with increasing elevation, the proportion of all enclosures on steep slopes increases and the proportion of those on gentle slopes decreases. That this may not be entirely due to changes in relief with increasing altitude is suggested by the results for the 101-200m.OD range,

where enclosures on steep slopes occur at least as frequently as at higher elevations.

Enclosures on moderate slopes are most strongly represented in the 101-200m.OD elevation group, which contains 45% of all enclosures sited on gradients of between 1 in 11 and 1 in 20. This may reflect the ridge and valley terrain characteristic of this elevation range, especially in the southern Quantocks and along the fringes of the Brendons.

These correlated data suggest that a significant threshold relating to preferred gradients for the siting of enclosures may occur at around 200m.OD. Above this elevation, 69% of the total enclosures present are sited on slopes of 1 in 10 or steeper, whereas below this elevation only 21% are located on steep slopes.

2.4.4 Correlations between elevation and slope in relation to enclosure type.

These have been examined using the same elevation and slope groups as for the general sample (2.4.3). Data for each of the three types are shown in numerical form in Fig.15 and as percentage conversions in Table 3. Sample sizes for each elevation group are also shown in Table 3.

As is apparent from Table 3, analysis of this data has been limited by the small sample sizes for sites located over 200m.OD, especially those for hybrid and rectilinear enclosures. Nevertheless it has been possible to identify several potentially significant variations between the three enclosure types in relation to the correlated elevation and slope data.

At elevations below 101m.OD, curvilinear and rectilinear enclosures show similar patterns of distribution between the slope groups, with high percentages occurring on gentle slopes and much smaller percentages on moderate and steep slopes. In the case of rectilinear enclosures, the 52 sites which are located on gentle slopes below 101m.OD represent 48% of the type total. However, hybrid enclosures show a more even spread, with fewer occurring on gentle slopes and a significantly higher percentage being sited on moderate slopes.

Between 101- 200m.OD, all three types show a more even distribution of enclosures between the slope groups than occurs at higher or lower elevations. In the case of hybrids and rectilinears, almost half of the sites in this elevation range are sited on moderate slopes, with markedly smaller proportions occurring

on steep or gentle slopes. However, in the case of curvilinears, more or less equal proportions occur on moderate and steep slopes, with significantly fewer being sited on gentle slopes.

As noted above, sample sizes for enclosures located over 200m.OD are too small for detailed analysis. However, it appears that a high proportion of both curvilinears and hybrids are sited on steep slopes and that the same may also apply for rectilinears.

a) Curvilinear enclosures.

Elevation group	% on steep slopes	% on moderate slopes	% on gentle slopes	Sample size
under 101mOD	12%	21%	67%	34
101-200mOD	40%	37%	23%	30
201-300mOD	74%	13%	13%	15
over 300mOD	64%	14%	22%	14

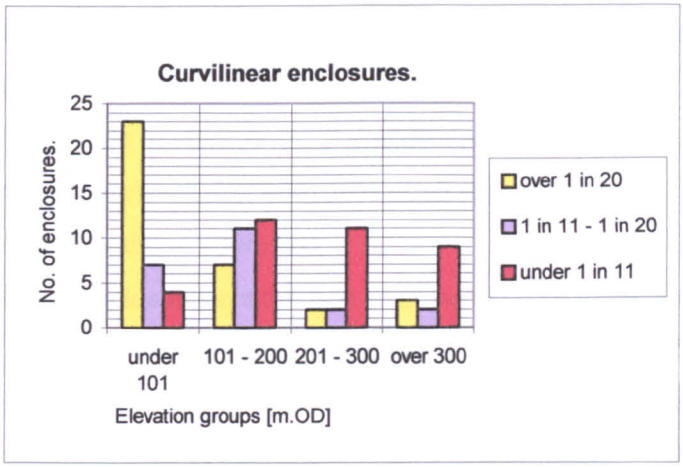
b) Hybrid enclosures.

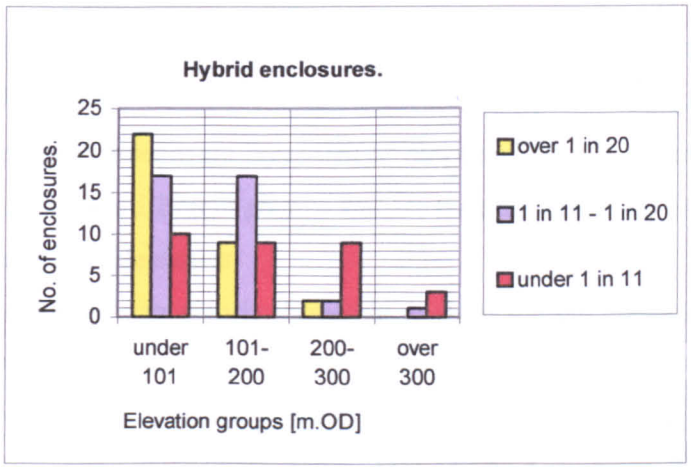
Elevation group	% on steep slopes	% on moderate slopes	% on gentle slopes	Sample size
under 101mOD	20%	35%	45%	49
101-200mOD	26%	48%	26%	35
201-300mOD	70%	15%	15%	13
over 300mOD	75%	25%	0%	4

c) Rectilinear enclosures.

Elevation group	% on steep slopes	% on moderate slopes	% on gentle slopes	Sample size
under 101mOD	12%	14%	74%	70
101-200mOD	27%	49%	24%	33
201-300mOD	50%	50%	0%	4
over 300mOD	100%	0%	0%	2

Table 3 *Correlations between elevation and slope in relation to enclosure type.*





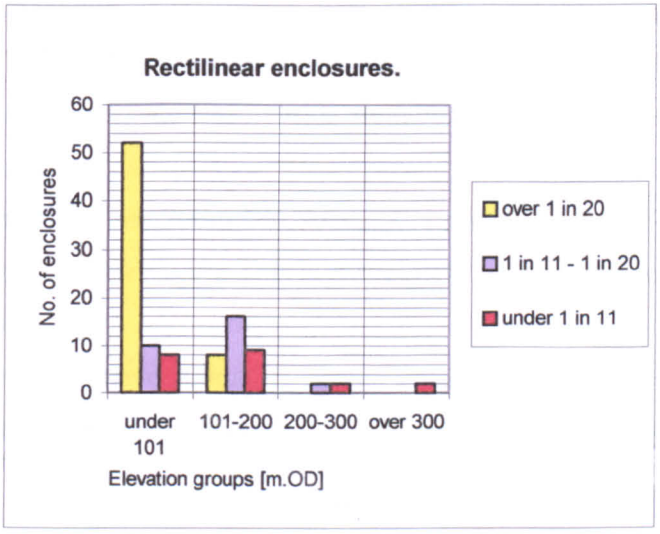


Fig. 15. Correlations between elevation and slope in relation to enclosure type.

2.4.5 Summary of main points relating to elevation, slope and enclosure siting.

- The full sample of class A and B enclosures (305) shows a strong bias towards lower elevations, with 50% of all enclosures lying below 101m.OD and only 17% above 200m.OD.
- Rectilinear enclosures are the best represented type in the low elevation group, with curvilinears being dominant at elevations of 200m.OD and above. Both types show a clear response to increasing elevation, with relative proportions of curvilinears rising and of rectilinears falling. However, hybrid enclosures present a somewhat different pattern, with the highest proportions occurring in the intermediate elevation groups.
- Rectilinears are the most strongly represented type on very gentle slopes, whereas curvilinears are dominant on slopes of 1 in 10 or steeper. However, hybrids show a different pattern and are the dominant type on moderate-gentle and gentle slopes.
- The correlated data clearly show that, with increasing elevation, the proportion of enclosures on steep slopes rises, with a corresponding fall in the proportion of sites on gentle slopes. However a different pattern occurs for enclosures on moderate slopes, 45% of which are located in the 101-200m.OD range.
- Below 101m.OD, both curvilinears and rectilinears show a strong preference for gentle slopes, whereas hybrids are more evenly spread across the slope groups.
- Between 101m and 200m.OD, substantial proportions of all three types are sited on moderate slopes. This is particularly apparent for rectilinears and hybrids.
- At elevations above 200m.OD sample sizes are inadequate, but curvilinears and hybrids appear to show a clear preference for steep slopes.

2.5 Relationships between enclosure location and geology.

The western part of Somerset is a geologically diverse region, the mapping of which is spread over six separate 1 : 50,000 British Geological Survey sheets. As these maps were surveyed at different dates, there are some variations in the classifications used for the same geological units in different parts of the area. Furthermore, many parts of the study area contain exposures of rock types which, although lithologically similar, have been mapped as separate units. Thus the resulting pattern is both complex and somewhat confusing, especially around the margins of Exmoor and the Brendon Hills.

In order to simplify this data for the purposes of the present study, it has been necessary devise a terminology which is applicable to all parts of the study area. This has been done by grouping the mapped lithologies according to their age and main physical properties (Table 4). The numerical distribution of class A and B enclosures in relation to these lithological groups is displayed in Fig.17, with a key to the codes used for the groups being contained in Table 4. A simplified geological map for the study area is provided by Fig.16.

In total, 47% of all enclosures in the study area are sited on lithologies of palaeozoic age. A further 31% occur on mesozoic lithologies, with 22% being located on formations of recent age. It is clear from Table 4 that the available evidence for enclosures is unevenly distributed amongst the lithological groups. To some extent this may reflect the proportion of the study area occupied by each lithology, especially those which have small outcrops such as palaeozoic limestone and recent sandrock.

However, other factors are likely to apply in the case of mesozoic limestones and shales. Although these outcrop extensively along the coast and to the east of Taunton, they have produced very little evidence for enclosures. Conversely the recent gravel spreads, which in total occupy a much smaller area, have produced evidence for a substantial number of sites.

By far the largest number of recorded enclosures occur on palaeozoic slate lithologies, exposures of which occupy nearly 30% of the total study area. However, the distribution of enclosures is very uneven on these formations; most being concentrated around the edges of the Brendons and in the southern

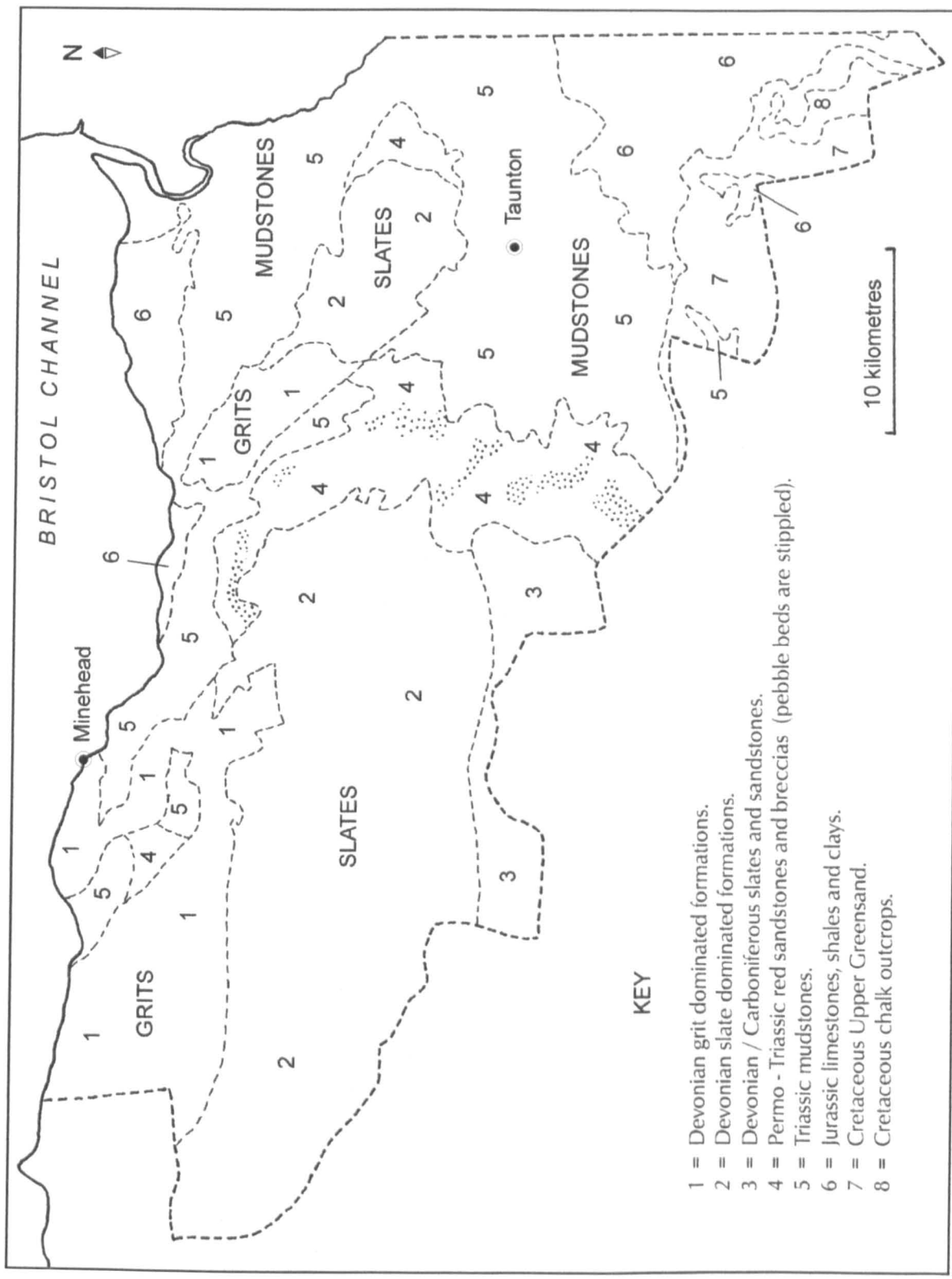


Fig. 16 Simplified map of the solid geology of the study area. For the purpose of clarity, some minor exposures have been omitted.

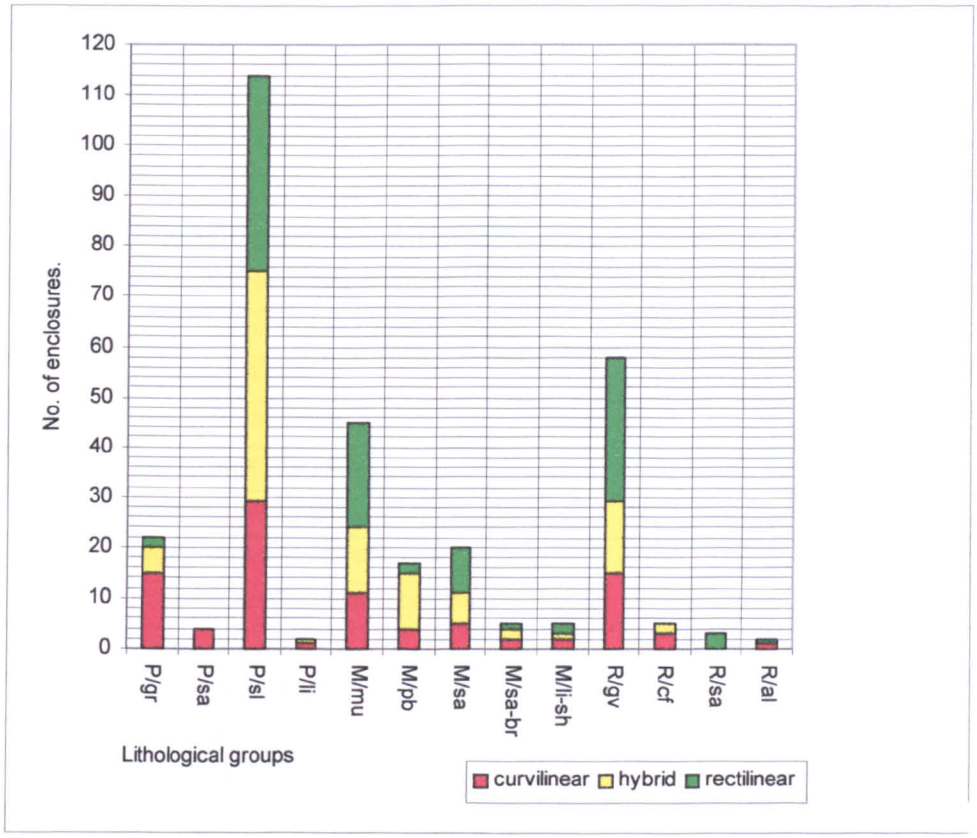


Fig.17 *The numerical distribution of Class A and B enclosures in relation to lithological groups.*

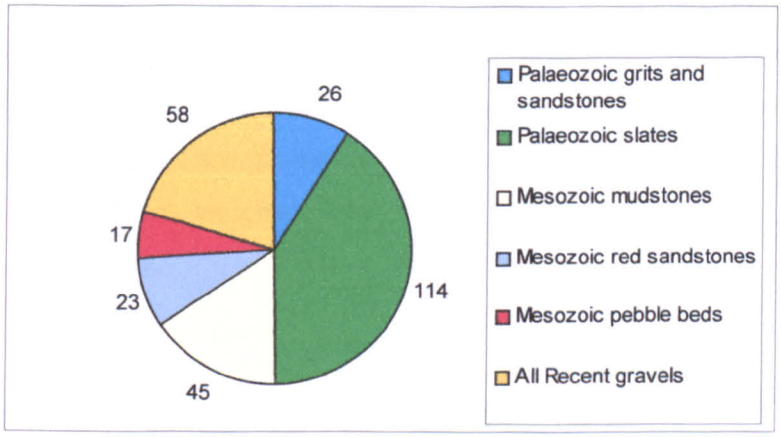


Fig.18 *The geological groupings used for analysis in 2.5.1 to 2.5.6.*

Quantocks, with large tracts of the central Brendons and Exmoor having no recorded sites.

Chart Key	Lithological group	No. of sites	% of total
P/gr	Palaeozoic grit dominated lithologies	22	7
P/sa	Palaeozoic sandstone dominated lithologies	4	1
P/sl	Palaeozoic slate dominated lithologies	114	37
P/li	Palaeozoic limestones	2	0.5
M/mu	Mesozoic mudstones	45	15
M/pb	Mesozoic pebble beds	17	6
M/sa	Mesozoic sandstones	20	7
M/li-sh	Mesozoic limestones and shales	5	2
M/sa-br	Mesozoic sandstones and breccias	5	2
R/gv	Recent gravels	58	19
R/cf	Recent clay with flints and chert	5	2
R/sa	Recent sand / sandrock	3	1
R/al	Recent alluvium	2	0.5
	TOTAL SAMPLE (Class A and B enclosures)	305	100%

Table 4. *The distribution of Class A and B enclosures in relation to lithological groups.*

The numerical distribution of enclosure types in relation to geology is shown on Fig.17. Unfortunately, enclosure sample sizes for most lithologies are too small for meaningful comment, which limits further discussion to the six largest samples. Underlying 93% of all class A and B enclosures, these lithological groups, together with relevant sample sizes, are shown on Fig.18. In the case of palaeozoic grits (P/gr), the sample number has been increased by adding the data for palaeozoic sandstones, which are lithologically similar and underlie comparable topography.

2.5.1 Palaeozoic slate dominated lithologies.

This lithological group comprises six of the geological formations which have been mapped by the British Geological Survey. Of these, the Morte Slates and the Ilfracombe Beds have the largest outcrops and underlie 80% and 11% of all enclosures in the group respectively. Exposures of Avill Slates and Sandstones, Leighland Slates, Doddiscombe Beds and Pilton Beds are of smaller extent and account for only 9% of enclosures.

As shown on Fig.19, the 114 enclosures in this group occur over a wide elevation span, which ranges from 36m to 392m.OD. However only ten sites are present at elevations below 76m.OD.

A striking feature of this chart is a marked clustering of evidence at elevations of between 76-200m.OD. Comprising 68% of all enclosures on slate lithologies, this reflects the strong representation of sites in the southern Quantocks and around the northern and eastern fringes of the Brendons. All three types are present in quantity in this elevation range, with 22% being curvilinear, 36% hybrid and 42% rectilinear.

23% of enclosures on slate lithologies occur above 200m.OD. These are widely distributed across the study area, with most occurring on Exmoor, the southern edge of the Brendons and in the southern Quantocks. In this higher elevation group rectilinears form only 16% of the total, with curvilinears and hybrids each forming 42%. This dominance of curvilinears and hybrids combined appears to result from a sharp fall in the number of rectilinears, only four examples of which are recorded above 200m.OD.

As shown on Fig. 20, all enclosure types show an overall preference for steep and moderate-steep slopes, with 43% of the total being located on the former and 33% on the latter. Only 18% of the total are sited on slopes gentler than 1 in 20.

55% of all curvilinear enclosures on slate lithologies are sited on steep slopes, with 28% occurring on moderate slopes and 17% on gentle slopes. Hybrids, however, show a different overall pattern, with 37% occurring on steep slopes, 46% on moderate slopes and 17% on gentle slopes. The overall distribution of rectilinears is almost identical to that for hybrids, with 36%, 46% and 18% occurring on steep, moderate and gentle slopes respectively.

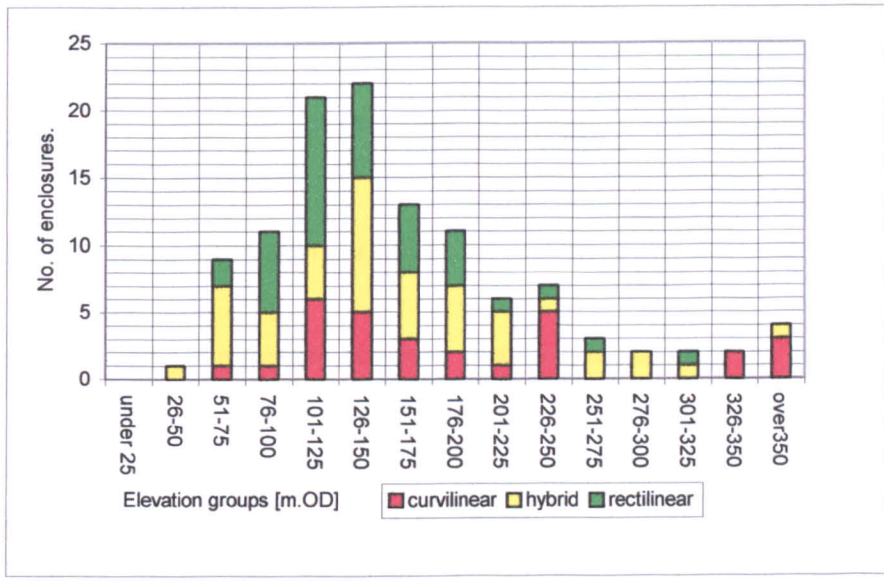


Fig.19 *Palaeozoic slate lithologies: relationship between enclosure type and elevation.*

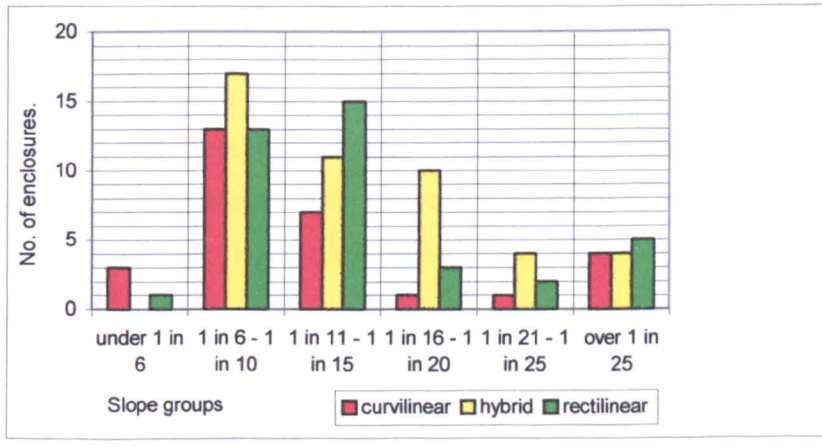


Fig.20 *Palaeozoic slate lithologies: relationship between enclosure type and slope.*

Elevation range	Gradient range	curvilinear	hybrid	rectilinear	Sample
76m-200m.OD	under 1 in 11	7 = 28%	7 = 28%	11 = 44%	25
	1 in 11 – 1 in 15	6 = 22%	7 = 26%	14 = 52%	27
	over 1 in 15	4 = 15%	14 = 54%	8 = 31%	26
Over 200m.OD	Under 1 in 11	9 = 50%	7 = 39%	2 = 11%	18

Table 5 : Correlated elevation and slope data for palaeozoic slate lithologies.

As shown on Table 5, a somewhat clearer picture emerges when the data for slope and elevation are correlated. Unfortunately, these correlations are incomplete, as sample sizes relating to most of the data from low and high elevations were too small for meaningful analysis.

At elevations between 76m and 200m.OD, it appears that rectilinear enclosures are the dominant type on slopes of 1 in 15 and under, outnumbering the combined total for curvilinears and hybrids in the 1 in 11 to 1 in 15 gradient range. However, on slopes of over 1 in 15, hybrids are dominant and outnumber the combined total for rectilinears and curvilinears. Numerically the smallest type group in this elevation range, curvilinears are best represented on steep slopes, with only four example occurring on slopes gentler than 1 in 15.

Above 200m.OD, the pattern for enclosures on steep slopes is markedly different, with curvilinears being the dominant type present. Hybrid enclosures are also present in quantity, but rectilinears are represented by only two examples.

2.5.2 Palaeozoic grit and sandstone dominated lithologies.

This lithological group comprises four of the geological formations which have been mapped by the British Geological Survey. Of these the Hangman and Trentishoe Grits, which have large outcrops in the northern Quantocks, the north-west Brendons and along the northern edge of Exmoor, underlie 85% of the enclosures in this group. Smaller outcrops of sandstone dominated Baggy Beds and Pickwell Down Beds, which occur along the southern edge of Exmoor, underlie the remaining 15% of sites.

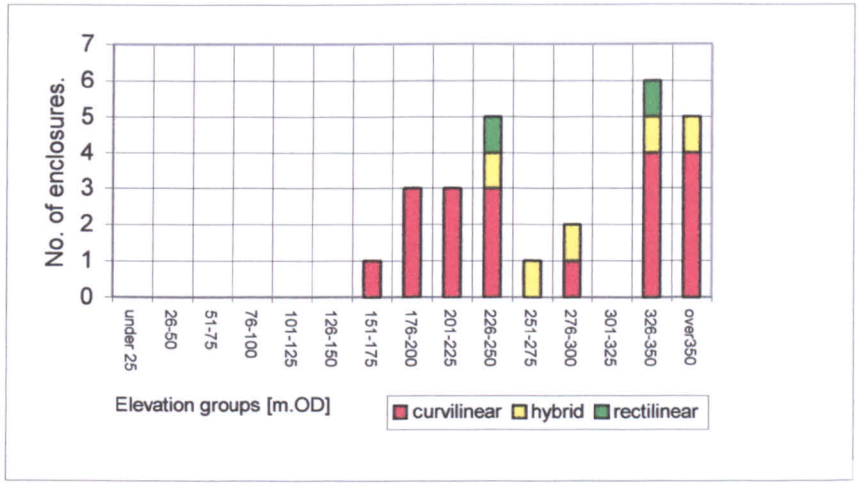


Fig.21 *Palaeozoic grits and sandstones: relationship between enclosure type and elevation.*

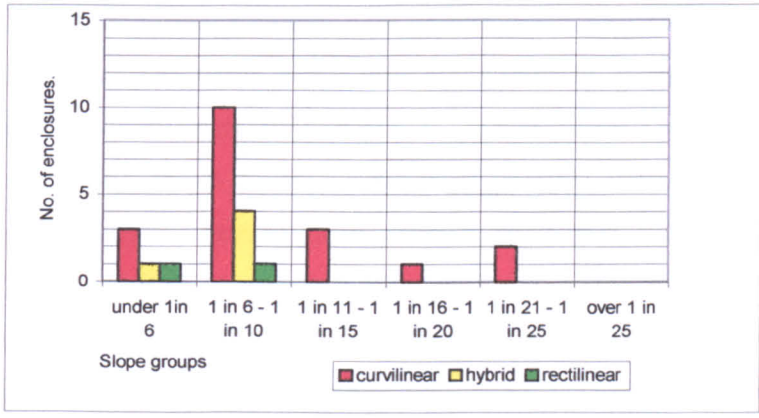


Fig.22 *Palaeozoic grits and sandstones: relationship between enclosure type and slope.*

As shown on Fig.21, the 26 enclosures recorded on these lithologies range in elevation from c.170m to 420m.OD. They occur within two marked clusters, which are located between 170-250m.OD and 326-420m.OD. These clusters contain 46% and 42% of all sites in this group respectively and are dominated by curvilinear enclosures (83% and 73% respectively).

Fig.22 indicates a strong preference for steep slopes on these lithologies, with 19% of enclosures occurring on slopes steeper than 1 in 6 and 58% on slopes of between 1 in 6 and 1 in 10. In addition to a majority of curvilinears, all hybrid and rectilinear examples are located on steep slopes.

2.5.3 Recent gravels.

This lithological group encompasses all superficial deposits shown on various editions of the 1 : 50,000 geological maps as terrace gravel, valley gravel and Head. Although distributed across all lowland parts of the study area, these deposits are of particular significance in the Vale of Taunton and in the lower Parrett valley to the east of the Quantock Hills. Gravels of fluvial origin occur mainly as the remnants of gently sloping, fan-like deposits associated with the mouths of larger stream valleys. Head deposits, however, are widespread on both gentle and moderate slopes across most lowland areas (see Appendix 2).

The 58 enclosures recorded on recent Head and fluvial gravels range in elevation from 15m to 127m.OD. As shown on Fig.23, 52% of all sites are located under 50m.OD. Of these 63% are rectilinear, 20% are hybrid and 17% are of curvilinear type. A further 41% of sites occur between 51m and 100m.OD. These are more evenly distributed in terms of type, with 33% being rectilinear, 29% being hybrid and 38% being curvilinear. Only four sites (7% of total) are located above 100m.OD. Amongst all types, there is a strong preference for gently sloping locations, with 100% of rectilinears, 86% of curvilinears and 79% of hybrids having gradients gentler than 1 in 20 (Fig.24). Only five sites occur on moderate or steep slopes.

When the figures given above are correlated a clear pattern can be discerned. As shown on Table 6, all enclosures located below 51m.OD are sited on gradients of over 1 in 20. All have recorded gradients which are gentler than 1 in 25, with 63% having almost negligible slopes of 1 in 45 or gentler. Of the latter, all are of rectilinear type.

Elevation range	Gradient range	curvilinear	hybrid	rectilinear	Sample
Under 51m.OD	Over 1 in 20	5 = 17%	6 = 20%	19 = 63%	30
	Under 1 in 20	0	0	0	0
51-127m.OD	Over 1 in 20	8 = 35%	5 = 22%	10 = 43%	23
	Under 1 in 20	1	3	1	5

Table 6 Elevation / slope correlations for enclosures on recent gravel formations.

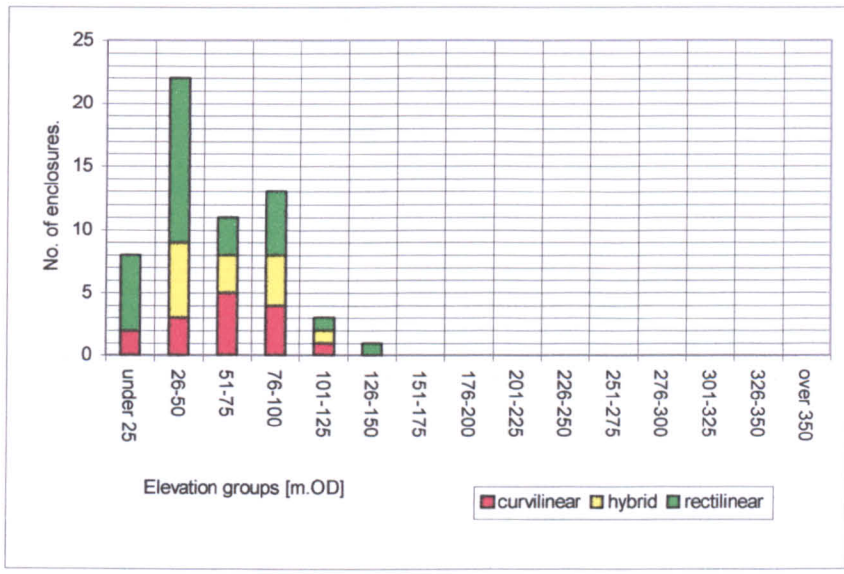


Fig.23 *Recent gravels: relationship between enclosure type and elevation.*

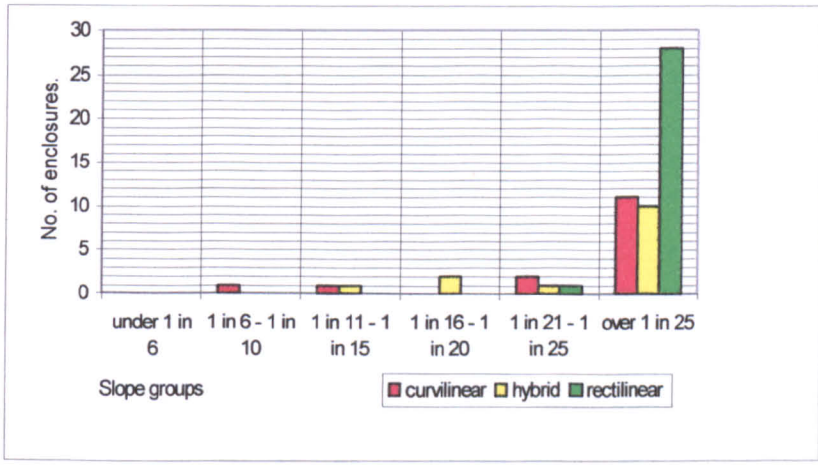


Fig.24 *Recent gravels: relationship between enclosure type and slope.*

Above 51m.OD, 82% of enclosures are also sited on gradients of over 1 in 20, although only 38% of these are on slopes gentler than 1 in 45. There appears to be a marked change in the proportion of each type present, with a significant decrease in the percentage of rectilinears and a corresponding increase in the representation of curvilinears. This has resulted in a significantly more even

spread of enclosure types, which may largely be due to a sharp decline in the number of rectilinears recorded above 51m.OD.

2.5.4 Mesozoic mudstone lithologies.

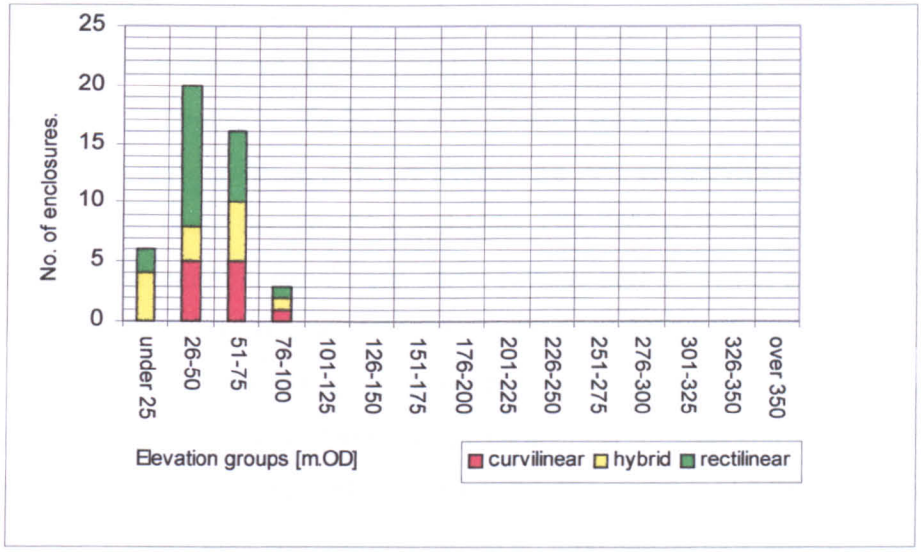


Fig.25 *Mesozoic mudstone lithologies: relationship between enclosure type and elevation.*

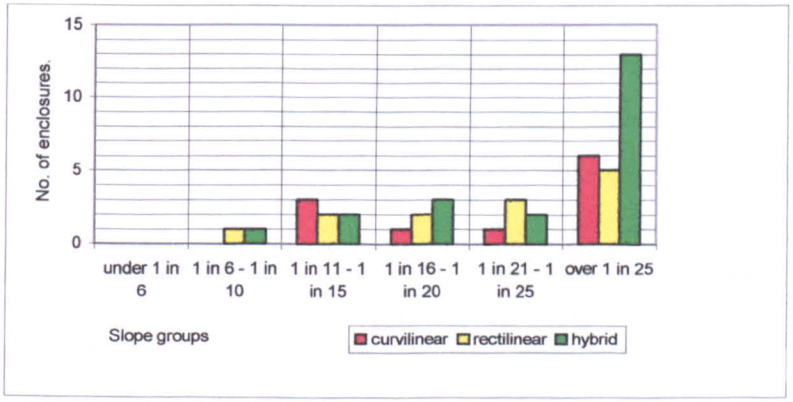


Fig.26 *Mesozoic mudstone lithologies: relationship between enclosure type and slope.*

This group comprises all those formations mapped as Mercia Mudstone. Being the most extensive of the mesozoic lithologies, these underlie much of the low elevation terrain in the eastern part of the study area. However, in many places the solid geology is masked by thin, poorly defined sheets of Head which, for practical reasons, have not been shown on recent editions of the British Geological Survey maps covering the area.

The 45 enclosures recorded on mudstones range in elevation from 8m to 96m.OD. As shown on Fig.25, 58% of all sites are located below 50m.OD. Of these 54% are rectilinear, 27% are hybrid and 19% are curvilinear. A further 42% of sites occur between 51m and 100m.OD, 36% of these being rectilinear, 32% hybrid and 32% curvilinear. These relative proportions of enclosure types bear a marked resemblance to the results obtained for recent gravels.

As is apparent from Fig.26, all types show a clear preference for locations on gentle slopes, with 71% of rectilinears, 64% of curvilinears and 61% of hybrids being sited on gradients gentler than 1 in 20. However, unlike the situation on gravels, a significant proportion are sited on moderate slopes, with 24% of rectilinears, 36% of curvilinears and 31% of hybrids having gradients of between 1 in 11 and 1 in 20.

Due to small sample sizes, most of the correlated data for this lithology is shown only in numerical form (Table 7). It can be seen that a high proportion (73%) of enclosures located below 51m.OD are sited on gentle slopes. As was the case for recent gravels, the majority of these are of rectilinear type, with curvilinears being poorly represented. However, unlike the situation on gravels, only 12% of sites in this elevation range have gradients of 1 in 45 or gentler.

Elevation range	Gradient range	curvilinear	hybrid	rectilinear	Sample
Under 51m.OD	Over 1 in 20	2 = 11%	6 = 31%	11 = 58%	19
	1 in 11-1 in 20	3	1	3	7
51-96m.OD	Over 1 in 20	5 = 45%	2 = 18%	4 = 36%	11
	1 in 11-1 in 20	2	2	2	6
	Under 1 in 11	0	1	1	2

***Table 7** Elevation / slope correlations for enclosures on Mesozoic mudstones.*

The remaining 27% of enclosures located below 51m.OD occur on moderate slopes of between 1 in 11 and 1 in 20. Although few in number, these provide a further contrast with the sample for gravels, where no examples on slopes steeper than 1 in 25 have been recorded for this elevation range.

Above 51m.OD, a majority (58%) of enclosures are also sited on gradients gentler than 1 in 20, although only 18% of these are on slopes of 1 in 45 or gentler. As was the case for gravels, there appears to be a marked change in the proportions of curvilinear and rectilinear enclosures, with the former increasing to 45% and the latter decreasing to 36% of the sample.

The remaining 42% of enclosures above 51m.OD are sited on slopes of 1 in 20 or steeper. Although few in number, these form a significantly higher proportion of sites in this elevation range than occurred in the sample for gravels.

2.5.5 Mesozoic red sandstone formations.

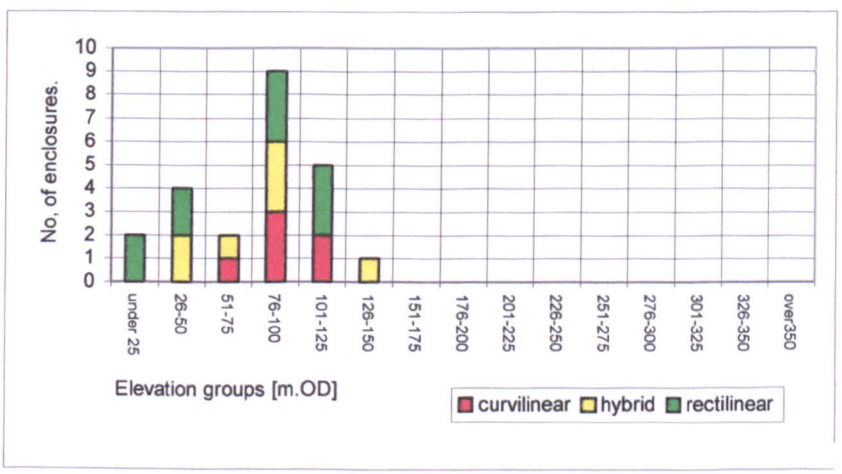


Fig.27 Mesozoic red sandstones: relationship between enclosure type and elevation.

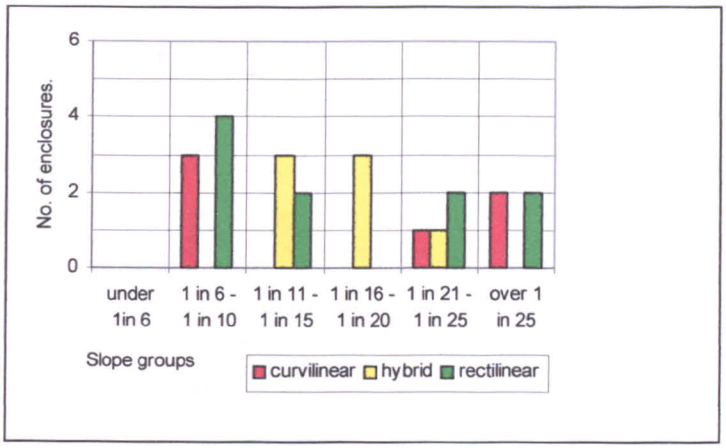


Fig.28 *Mesozoic red sandstones: relationship between enclosure type and slope.*

This lithological group comprises those Permo-Triassic Sandstone formations which have been mapped by the British Geological Survey as Otter Sandstone and Wiveliscombe Sandstones. Although exposed mainly around the fringes of the southern Quantocks and the south-eastern Brendons, isolated outcrops also occur elsewhere, including at low elevations in the lower Parrett valley.

The 23 enclosures recorded on mesozoic sandstones range in elevation from 15m to 129m.OD. As shown on Fig.27, 74% have elevations of over 51m.OD. These show a fairly even distribution of types, with 35% being rectilinear, 30% hybrid and 35% curvilinear. The sample of sites located below 51m.OD is too small for comment regarding enclosure type.

As shown on Fig.28, enclosures sited on these lithologies are fairly evenly distributed across the gradient range, with 30% occurring on steep slopes and 35% occurring on both moderate and gentle slopes. In spite of the small numbers involved, the strong representation of hybrid enclosures on moderate slopes and of rectilinears on moderate-steep and steep slopes may be significant.

Given the small sample of sites on these lithologies, little meaningful correlation is possible. However, of the 17 enclosures located between 51m and 129m.OD, 40% are sited on steep slopes, 20% on moderate slopes and 40% on gentle slopes. The limited evidence available suggests a fairly even spread of enclosure types in this elevation range, with only curvilinears and rectilinears being represented on steep slopes (50% of total respectively).

2.5.6 Mesozoic pebble beds.

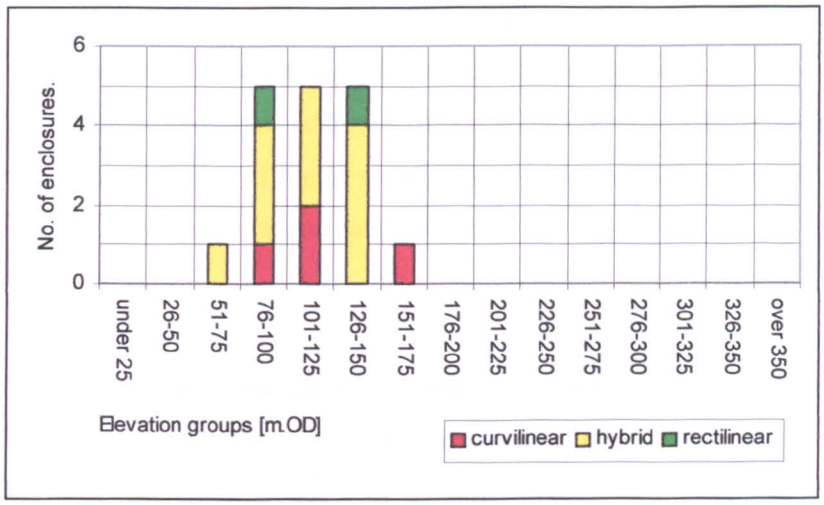


Fig.29 Mesozoic pebble beds: relationship between enclosure type and elevation.

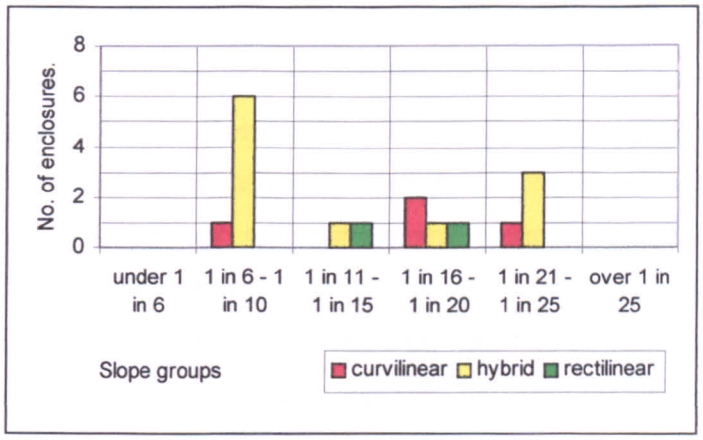


Fig.30 Mesozoic pebble beds: relationship between enclosure type and slope.

This is the smallest of the lithological groups, both in terms of surface outcrop and the number of enclosures recorded. It consists solely of the Budleigh Salterton Pebble Beds, which form a series of pronounced ridges and scarps along the north-eastern, eastern and south-eastern fringes of the Brendon Hills.

The 17 enclosures recorded on this lithology range in elevation from 70m to 164m.OD. As is apparent from Fig.29, 64% are of hybrid type, with a further 24% being curvilinear and only 12% rectilinear. In terms of slope, 41% of

enclosures are sited on gradients of 1 in 10 or steeper, with only 24% occurring on slopes gentler than 1 in 20 (Fig.30).

Although the sample of enclosures in this group is too small for detailed analysis, it appears to show a pattern which may be related to the strong relief associated with this lithology. In particular, the high proportion of hybrid and curvilinear enclosures combined (88%) and a correspondingly poor representation of rectilinears recalls the situation at higher elevations on palaeozoic slates, grits and sandstones.

2.5.7 Summary of main points relating to enclosure location and geology.

In order to summarise the results which have emerged from the above analyses, it will be convenient to consider them in the context of three broad elevation groups.

1) Over 200m.OD.

The only lithological groups represented are slates and palaeozoic grits and sandstones. In both cases, large majorities of enclosures are sited on steep slopes, with only small proportions occurring on slopes gentler than 1 in 20. The relative proportions of each enclosure type on steep slopes are very similar for both lithological groups, with a strong representation of curvilinears and only small percentages of rectilinears. In both cases, curvilinears and hybrids combined form 89% of all enclosures on steep slopes. Although the numbers of enclosures occurring on gentler slopes are too small for detailed comment, it appears that a majority on both lithologies are of curvilinear type.

2) Between 51m.OD and 200m.OD.

Here the situation appears to be more complex. As this range encompasses both the upper fringes of the lowlands and the lower slopes of the major upland areas, all of the main lithological groups are represented.

A large proportion of enclosures occur on palaeozoic slate formations; most of these being located on steep or moderate-steep slopes. On this lithology, rectilinears are the most frequently occurring type on steeper slopes, whereas hybrids are dominant on moderate-gentle and gentle slopes. A significant

proportion of enclosures on mesozoic sandstones and pebble beds also occur on steep slopes. This may in part reflect the location of the major outcrops, which occur at the interface between the palaeozoic uplands and the predominantly mesozoic lowlands.

On slate, mudstone, sandstone and gravel formations, the relative proportions of enclosure types are more evenly balanced than at lower elevations, with a smaller proportion of rectilinears and a better representation of both hybrids and curvilinears. However, on the pebble beds there is a much less even spread of enclosure types, with a strong representation of hybrids and only a small percentage of rectilinears. This recalls the situation recorded for sites above 200m.OD and may be related to the ridge and scarp topography associated with this lithology.

3) Below 50m.OD

The only useful samples of enclosures occur on mesozoic mudstones and recent gravels. In the case of the gravels all recorded sites are located on gentle slopes, most of which have gradients of over 1 in 45. A high proportion of these enclosures are of rectilinear type, with curvilinears and hybrids being relatively poorly represented. On the mudstones most enclosures are also sited on gentle slopes, although fewer of these occur on very gentle gradients than is the case for gravels. Once again rectilinears are the dominant type, with only a small proportion being of curvilinear form. However, unlike the situation on gravels, some 27% of low elevation sites on mudstones are located on moderate slopes. These differences between the two lithologies seems likely to reflect the more undulating nature of the topography associated with the mudstones.

2.6 The distribution of enclosures in relation to water supply.

As settlements primarily involved in keeping livestock may have required closer supplies of water than sites where crop production was of greater importance, this attribute was considered to be of potential value in assessing the possible

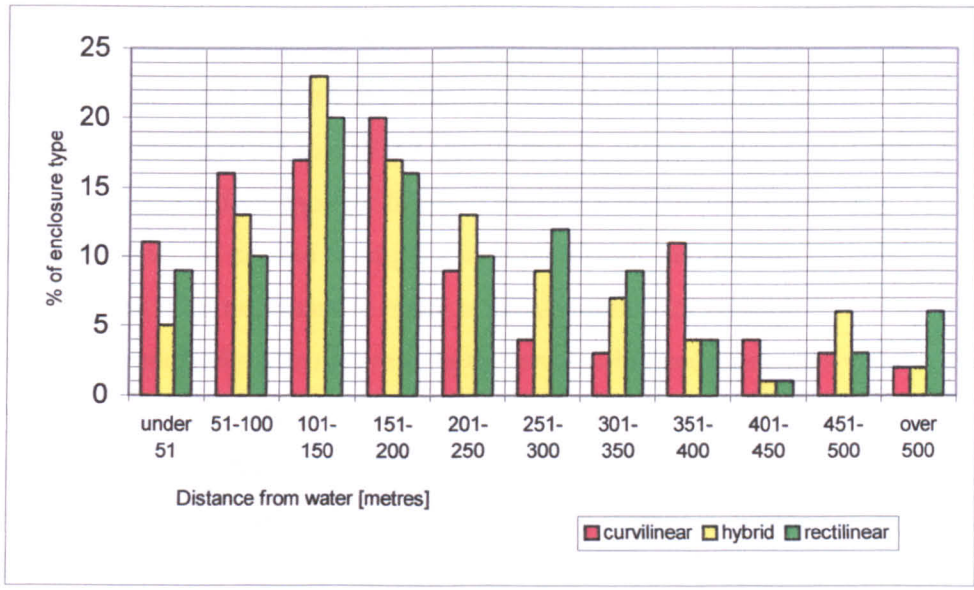


Fig.31. *Distance from nearest known water supply expressed as a percentage of the total sample for each enclosure type.*

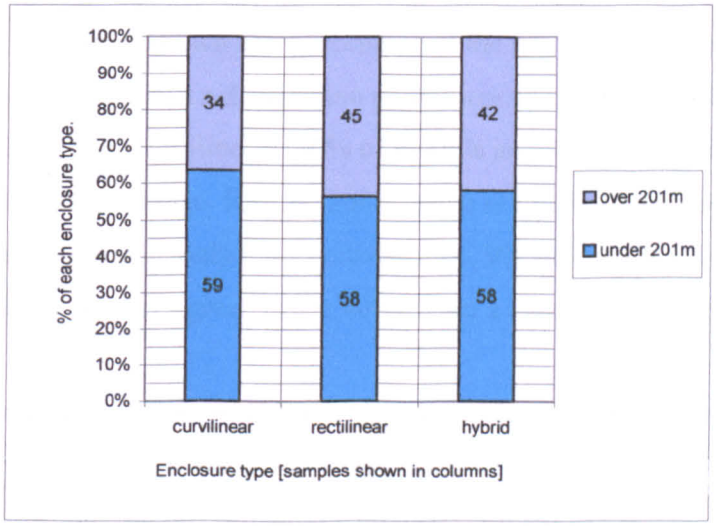


Fig.32 *General relationship between enclosure type and distance from water.*

functions of individual enclosures. In order to investigate this, distances from the nearest known water supply were recorded for a total of 296 enclosures.

However identifying sources of water was not always a simple task, especially in areas where extensive modifications to natural drainage systems had taken place in medieval or later times. Most problems in were encountered in lowland areas with gentle relief, notably the extensive gravel spreads which occur in the Vale of Taunton and to the east of the Quantocks. In a large majority of cases, the distances recorded are thought likely to provide a reasonable approximation to the situation which existed during the later prehistoric and Roman periods. However, it has been necessary to make some allowance for possible inaccuracies, especially when examining the results obtained from sites which appear to lack nearby water supplies.

Fig.32 shows the overall relationship of each enclosure type to water supply. For the purpose of summarising the recorded data, a threshold distance of 200 metres was chosen in order to distinguish enclosures with adjacent water sources from those with more distant supplies. From this, it is apparent that all enclosure types show small majorities of sites with adjacent sources of water, with 59% of the combined total lying within 200m of an identifiable supply.

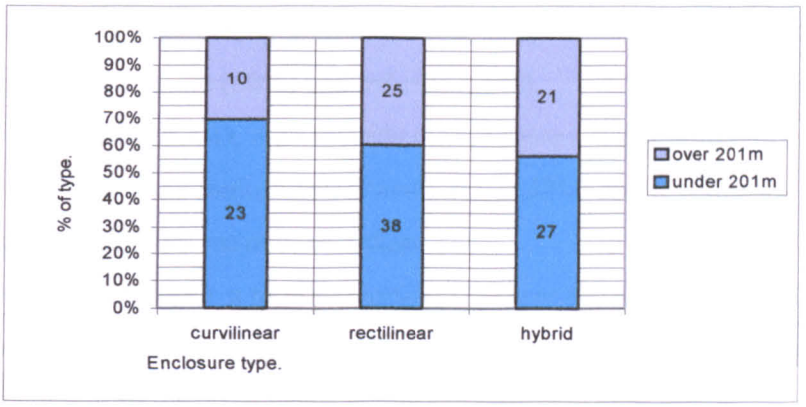
Fig.31 shows the recorded distances from water in greater detail. Here, distances have been grouped into 50m units, with the number of enclosures present in each unit being shown as a percentage of the total sample for each type. From this, it is clear that a distribution peak occurs between 100-200m from water, with 37% of curvilinears, 40% of hybrids and 36% of rectilinears lying within this distance range. Beyond 200m, there is a marked decline in the occurrence of all types, with only 9% of curvilinears, 9% of hybrids and 10% of rectilinears lying at distances greater then 400m from a known water supply.

2.6.1 Relationships between enclosure type, elevation and water supply.

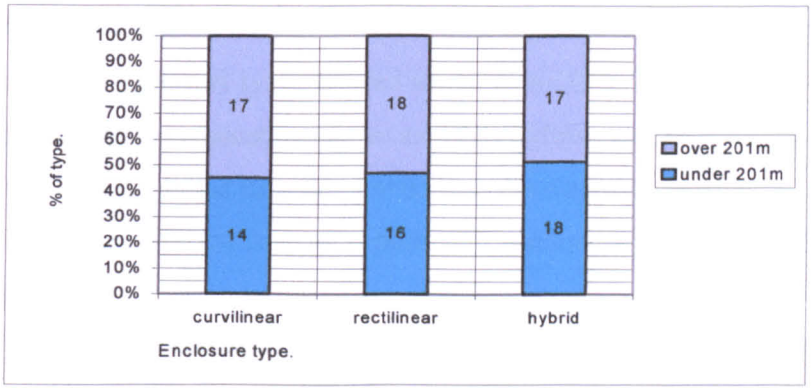
In order to examine these, the sample of enclosures was divided into three elevation groups which can be correlated with those defined in 2.4.1.

Low elevation	Under 101m.OD.
Low-intermediate elevation	101-200m.OD.
High-intermediate and high elevations	Over 200m.OD.

A) UNDER 101m.OD.



B) 101-200m.OD.



C) OVER 200m.OD.

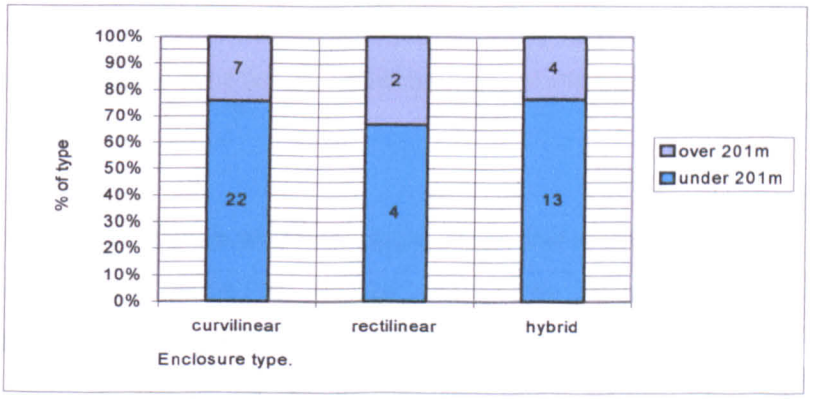


Fig.33 *Relationships between enclosure type, elevation and water supply. Sample numbers are shown in columns.*

Measured distances from the nearest known water supply have been placed into adjacent and distant groups using the threshold distance of 200m. The results of this analysis are shown on Fig.33.

At elevations under 101m.OD, a majority (61%) of all enclosures have adjacent water supplies. This is most clearly seen in the case of curvilinears (70%), but is more marginal for rectilinears (60%) and hybrids (56%).

Between 101m. and 200m.OD, only hybrids (51%) show a slight preference for adjacent sources, with small majorities of curvilinears (55%) and rectilinears (53%) having water supplies more distant than 200m.

At elevations over 200m.OD, a high proportion (75%) of the total sample has an adjacent water supply. This is most marked for curvilinears and hybrids (76% respectively), but less so for rectilinears, where the sample size is very small.

These results suggest that the overall preference for adjacent water supplies is strongest amongst all enclosure types located above 200m.OD. There is also a less marked preference for adjacent supplies amongst hybrids and rectilinears located below 101m.OD. In the case of curvilinears, there appears to be a stronger preference for adjacent sources at both high and low elevations, which may be significant.

At elevations between 101-200m.OD, the lack of any clear preference for either adjacent or distant water sources applies to all three types and appears likely to reflect a genuine pattern. It seems possible, at least in part, that this could result from topographical factors, such as the widespread occurrence in the southern Quantocks and the Brendons of broad, unwatered slopes overlooking deep, steep-sided valleys.

2.6.2 Relationships between enclosure type, slope and water supply.

An initial examination of all the data relating to slope and distance from water supply proved to be inconclusive, with a lack of coherent patterning observable for enclosures sited on moderate slopes of between 1 in 11 and 1 in 20. However, by considering only those enclosures located on steep and gentle gradients, it was possible to discern potentially significant differences between these slope groups in relation to distance from water.

The clearest pattern to emerge relates to enclosures sited on slopes of 1 in 11 or steeper. Overall, 71% of these have an identifiable water source located within 200m of the site. As shown on Fig.34, this preference for an adjacent water

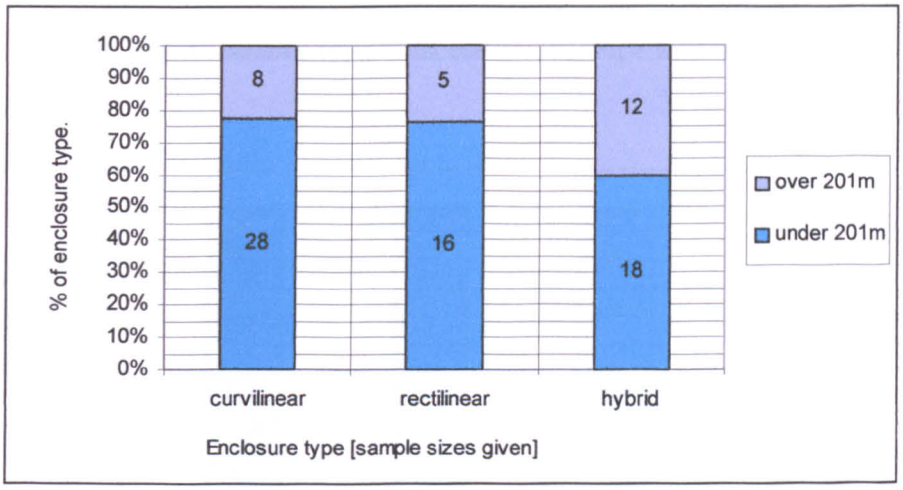


Fig.34 All enclosures on steep slopes : relationship between type and distance from water.

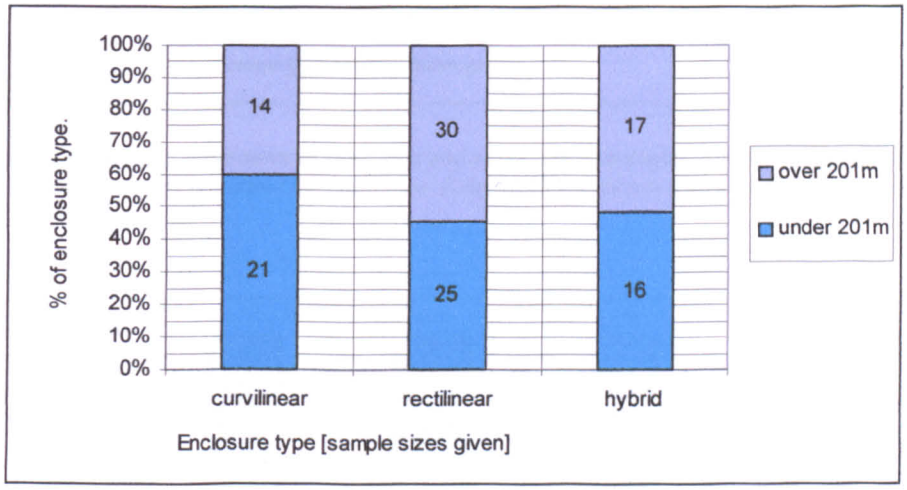


Fig.35 All enclosures on gentle slopes : relationship between type and distance from water.

supply is most marked for curvilinears (78%) and rectilinears (76%), but is less apparent in the case of hybrids (60%).

For enclosures located on slopes gentler than 1 in 20, there appears to be no clear overall preference for either adjacent or more distant sources of water. As shown on Fig.35, only curvilinears show a preference for water supplies within 200 metres, whereas both rectilinears and hybrids show a marginal preference for more distant sources. Given the problems of source identification noted earlier this result must be seen as tentative, although it does appear to suggest a lesser degree of preference for adjacent sources than occurs amongst enclosures located on steep slopes.

2.6.3 Correlating enclosure type with elevation, slope and water supply.

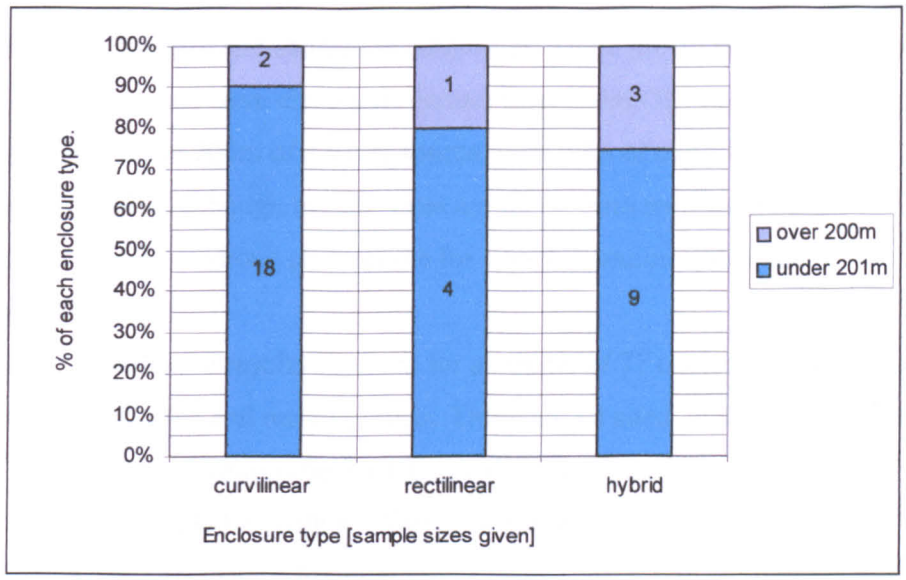


Fig.36 *Enclosures on Palaeozoic slate, grit and sandstone lithologies; sited on steep slopes at elevations of 200m.OD and above. Relationship between type and distance from water.*

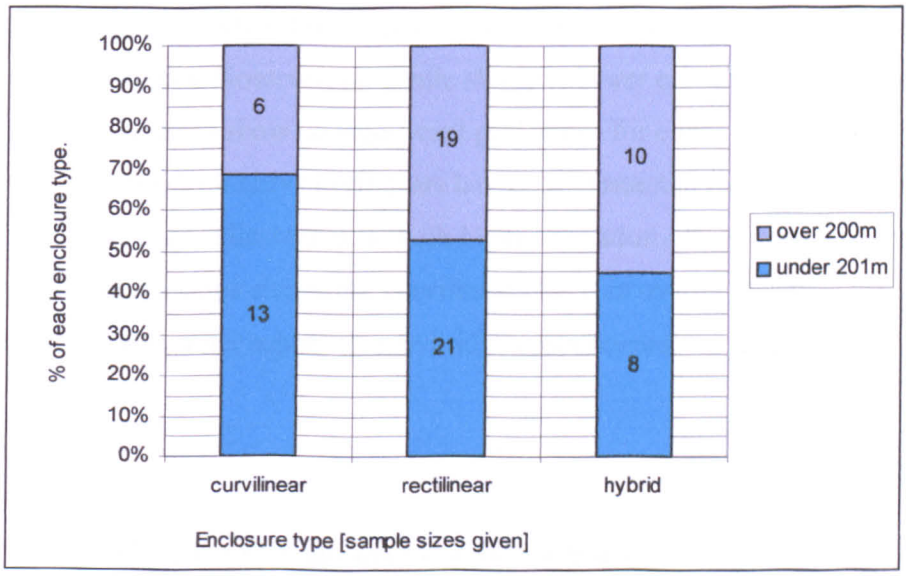


Fig.37 *Enclosures on mesozoic mudstones and recent gravels; sited on gentle slopes at elevations under 101m.OD. Relationship between type and distance from water.*

In order to correlate the relationships between enclosures type, elevation and slope, two samples of enclosures from opposite ends of the topographic spectrum have been examined.

1) Fig.36 shows the results obtained for a sample of 37 enclosures located on palaeozoic slate, grit and sandstone lithologies. These are all sited on slopes of 1 in 11 or steeper and have elevations greater than 200m.OD. In total, 84% of this sample lies within 200m of a water source, with 90% of curvilinears having an adjacent supply. Although sample sizes are small, both rectilinears and hybrids also appear to have strong preferences for adjacent sources (80% and 75% respectively).

2) Fig.37 shows the results obtained for a sample of 77 enclosures located on mesozoic mudstone and recent gravels. These are all sited on slopes gentler than 1 in 20 and have elevations below 101m.OD. In total, a much smaller proportion (54%) of this sample lies within 200m of water, with only curvilinears (68%) showing a clear preference for an adjacent supply. Although rectilinears show a marginal preference for adjacent supplies, a small majority of hybrids have more distant water sources.

These correlated results suggest that, for all enclosure types, preference for adjacent supplies is best represented amongst sites located at higher elevations and on steep slopes. However, on gentle slopes at lower elevations, hybrids and rectilinears appear to show no significant preference for either adjacent or distant sources of water, with only curvilinears having a substantial majority of adjacent supplies. This may indicate that, in both higher elevation / steep slope and lower elevation / gentle slope situations, curvilinears have an overall closer relationship with water supply than hybrids or rectilinears.

2.7 The distribution of enclosures in relation to aspect.

As a recorded attribute, aspect is potentially of value in helping to identify those enclosures which could have been sited near or within south or east facing field systems. It may also help identify sites which, having an inclement westerly or north-westerly aspect, may have been seasonally occupied or were primarily involved in non-arable economic activities.

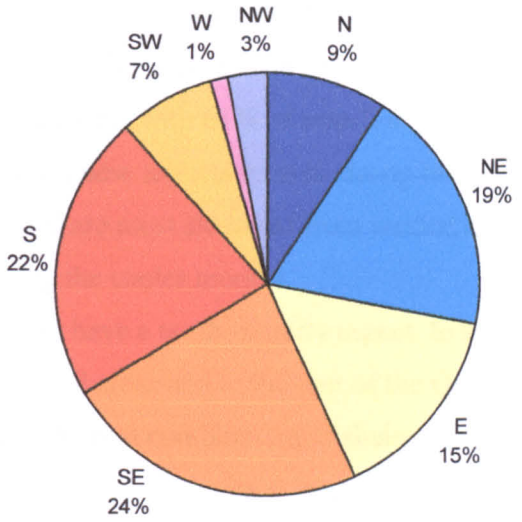


Fig.38 *Recorded aspects for all relevant class A and B enclosures. Total sample = 297 sites.*

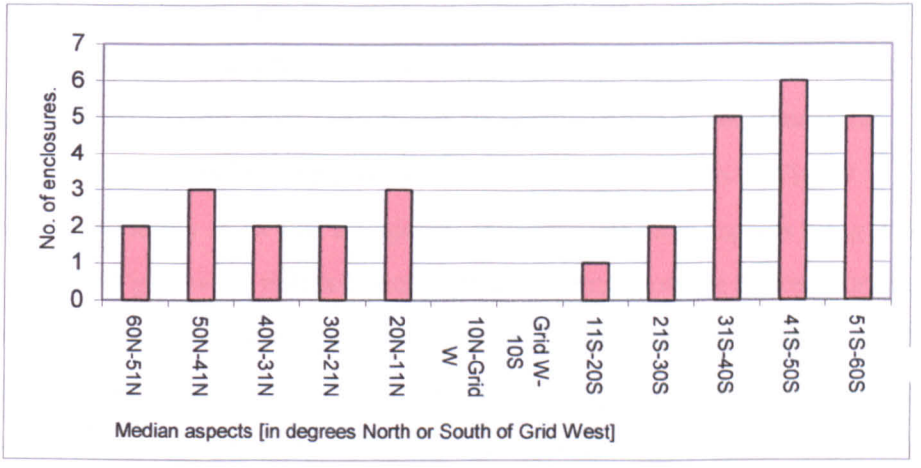


Fig.39 *Distribution of all class A and B enclosures which have median aspects lying within an arc of 120° centred on Grid West. Total sample = 31.*

Details relating to aspect have been recorded for a total of 297 enclosures. In most cases, only a general orientation was noted, with sites being assigned to one of eight major sectors (e.g. north-east). However, for enclosures in the least

well represented sectors (south-west, west and north-west) more accurate measurements were made in order that a fuller examination could be undertaken.

The proportion of the total enclosure sample occurring within each major sector is illustrated on Fig.38. This shows a clear overall preference for locations with southerly or easterly aspects, with 61% of sites lying in the south, south-east and east sectors combined. These aspects receive strong insolation during the late spring and summer and are most sheltered from westerly storms and cold northerly winds during the cooler months.

A further 19% of sites have a north-easterly aspect. In some parts of the study area, especially in coastal areas and to the east of the Quantocks, slopes facing in this direction provide the best combination of shelter from Atlantic storms with an adequate amount of direct insolation during the warmer months.

Only 12% of enclosures have north or north-westerly aspects, with a further 8% lying in the west or south-west sectors. These aspects are most prone to stormy conditions and cold winds during the winter and receive more limited direct insolation during the warmer months.

Although the south-west, west and north-west sectors combined represent 33% of the total spectrum of aspects, they contain only 11% of the total enclosure sample. In order to examine this situation further, more accurate measurements using map contour data were made for each of the 31 enclosures with aspects lying within 60°of grid west. Median values for the aspect of each enclosure were calculated and the results grouped into 10° units as shown on Fig.39. These results clearly show that a majority of enclosures have aspects lying well to the south of grid west, with a thinner spread of sites showing a more northerly orientation. The most interesting feature of this distribution is an apparent hiatus which occurs between 26°S and 13°N of grid west. Only one enclosure (KM06) is present within this gap and, as this is sited at low elevation on a very gentle slope, aspect in this case may have been of marginal significance. As the available sample is rather small, it is difficult to assess the potential significance of this apparent dearth of sites with aspects close to grid west. However, it does seem possible that this hiatus might result from deliberate avoidance on the part of the enclosure builders, rather than from a chance break in the distribution pattern.

2.7.1 Relationships between aspect and enclosure elevation.

Prior to examining the data, all enclosures with recorded aspects were placed into one of the following elevation groups:

High elevation = over 200m.OD
Intermediate elevation = 76m to 200m.OD
Low elevation = below 76m.OD

In order to clarify an otherwise complex set of data, the recorded aspect sectors for each enclosure were grouped into the four climatically similar pairs shown below.

S+SE = south and south-east (warmest and most strongly insolated).
E+NE = east and north-east (less warm but well insolated).
N+NW = north and north-west (coolest, stormy and less well insolated).
W+SW = west and south-west (mild, stormy and less well insolated).

The results of an analysis using these paired aspects are recorded on Fig.40. This shows that, although there are variations in the percentages involved, all elevation groups have similar patterns of decline in the popularity of aspect pairs, ranging from the S+SE (most popular) to the W+SW (least popular). The high elevation group shows the most balanced spread of enclosures between the aspect pairs, with a difference between the highest and lowest values of 25%. This compares with differences of 34% for intermediate elevations and 46% for low elevations.

In order to provide a simple but valid summary of the relationships between elevation and aspect, the latter were re-grouped into clement aspects (S, SE, E, NE) and inclement aspects (N, NW, W, SW) on the basis of their main climatic

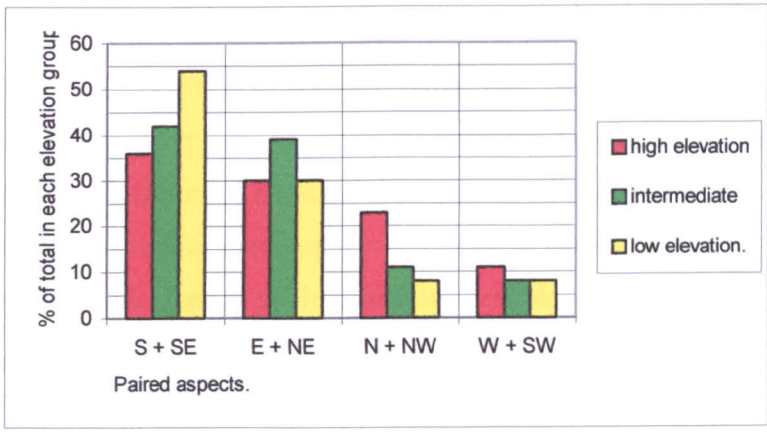


Fig.40 *Relationships between paired aspects and enclosure elevation groups.*

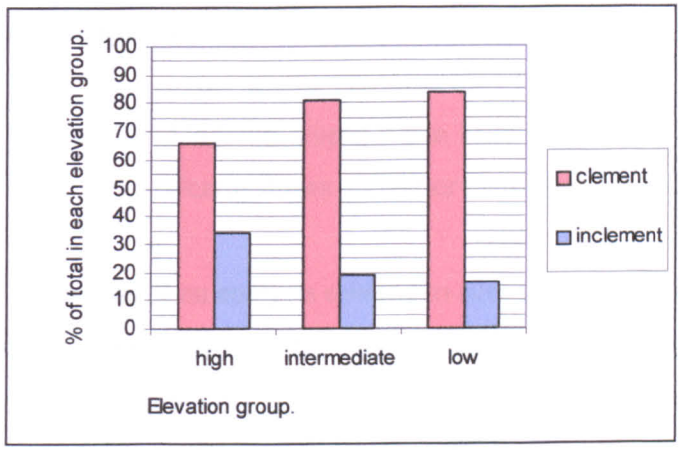


Fig.41 *The relative proportion of enclosures with clement and inclement aspects within each elevation group.*

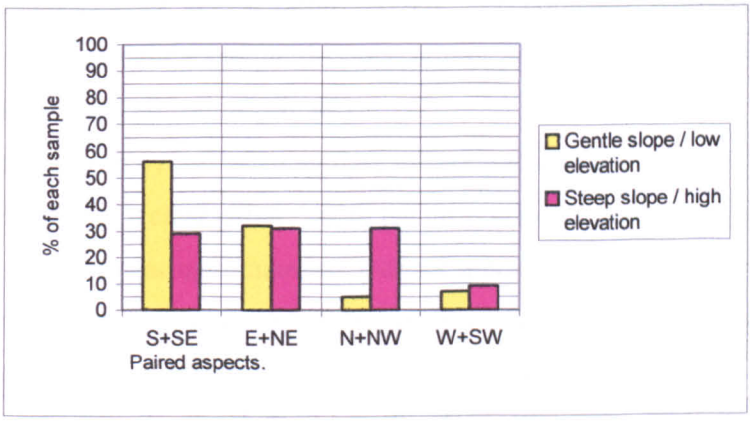


Fig.42 *Correlated data showing differences in the distribution of paired aspects between low elevation / gentle slope and high elevation / steep slope contexts.*

characteristics. As shown on Fig.41, there is a marked contrast between the results for high elevation enclosures and those from intermediate and low elevations. Whilst larger percentages of the latter have clement aspects than is the case at high elevations, a substantial proportion of enclosures in the high elevation group have inclement aspects. This can be related to the more balanced spread of aspects amongst high elevation sites recorded on Fig.40.

2.7.2 Relationships between aspect and enclosure slope.

In order to examine these data, all relevant enclosures have been placed into one of the following slope groups:

Steep slopes = Steeper than 1 in 11

Moderate slopes = 1 in 11 to 1 in 20

Gentle slopes = Gentler than 1 in 20

Fig.43 shows the results of an analysis relating to enclosure aspect and slope using paired aspects. As occurred in the case of elevation, all slope groups display similar patterns of decline in the popularity of aspect pairs, ranging from the S+SE (most popular) to the W+SW (least popular). Steep slopes show the most even balance of enclosures between the aspect pairs, with a difference between the highest and lowest values of 24%. This compares with a difference of 41% for both moderate and gentle slope groups and closely resembles the result for aspect and elevation (Fig.40).

Fig.44 provides an overview using data re-grouped into clement and inclement aspects. This shows a clear pattern, with the proportion of enclosures in the inclement sector appearing to increase with steepness of slope. The proportion of enclosures on steep slopes which have inclement aspects (34%) is significantly higher than for sites on gentle slopes (12%) and this corresponds closely to the results obtained for aspect and elevation (Fig.41).

2.7.3 Correlations between enclosure elevation, slope and aspect.

The general patterns revealed by the separate data analyses described above appear to be very similar. This suggests that some degree of inter-relationship

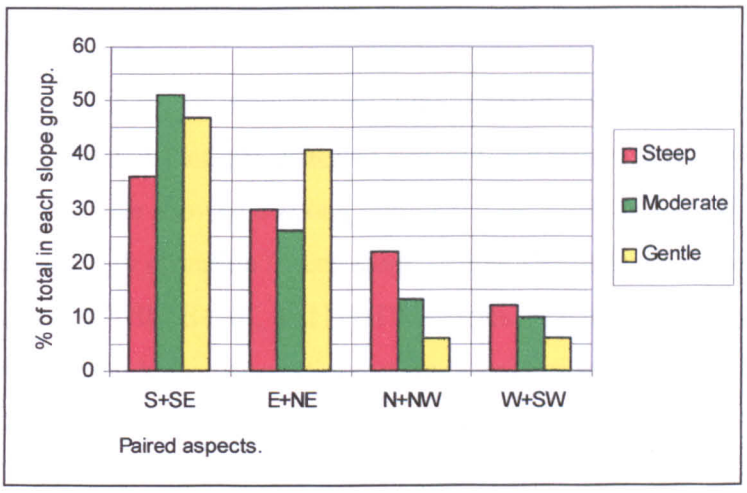


Fig.43 *Relationships between paired aspects and enclosure slope groups.*

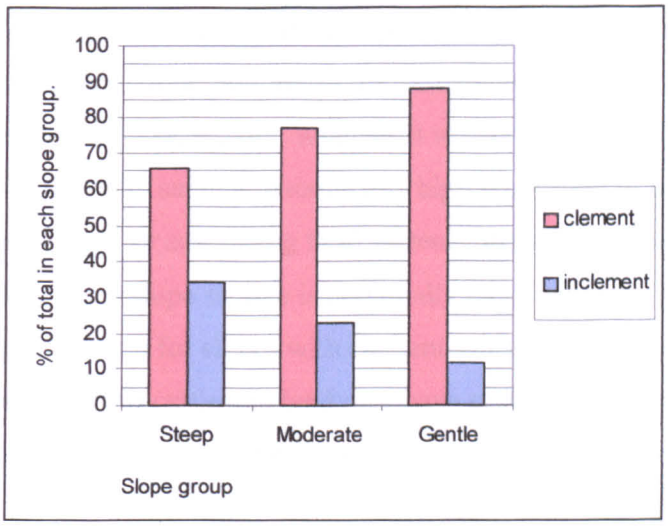


Fig.44 *The relative proportion of enclosures with clement and inclement aspects within each slope group.*

may have existed between elevation and slope in relation to the choice of aspect. Unfortunately, the available samples of enclosures located on steep slopes at low elevations or on gentle slopes at high elevations were very small and were considered unsuitable for analysis. Because of this, the question as to which of the two attributes may have had a greater influence on the choice of aspect has not been pursued.

In an attempt to correlate the available data, two samples from opposite ends of the topographical spectrum were assembled. The first of these contained all 32 enclosures which are located at over 200m.OD on slopes of 1 in 11 or steeper.

The second comprised all 82 sites which are located under 76m.OD on slopes gentler than 1 in 20.

As shown on Fig.42, an examination of these samples in relation to paired aspects revealed substantially different patterns. Whereas the low elevation / gentle slope sample showed a strong preference for S+SE and E+NE aspects combined, the high elevation / steep slope sample showed more or less equal preferences for S+SE, E+NE, and N+NW aspects. These differences appear to result largely from higher proportions of low elevation sites with S+SE aspects and of high elevation sites with N+NW aspects. In both samples, the proportions of W+SW aspects were very low.

These correlated samples clearly suggest a relationship between high elevation, steep slope and (with the exception of the W+SW sectors) a lack of clear preference for aspect. In contrast, enclosures located at low elevation on gentle slopes display a very strong preference for clement aspects, with a majority located in the warm S+SE sectors. Whereas it would be reasonable to interpret the pattern for the latter sample in terms of a high proportion of enclosures associated with south or east facing field systems, the situation pertaining to the high elevation / steep slope sample is potentially more complex. However, the lack of clear preference for slopes with clement aspects suggests that factors other than proximity to cultivated land may have played a greater role in the siting of at least some of these enclosures.

2.8 The distribution of single enclosures by size.

The surveyed plans and air photograph transcriptions for a total of 220 single enclosures were sufficiently complete for measurements of internal area to be made. In the case of larger sites with conjoined features or annexes, only the measured area of the main enclosure has been used in this sample. In order to achieve consistency, data relating to smaller conjoined or superimposed enclosures and probable Roman military sites have not been included.

The overall distribution of the total sample across a series of size groups is recorded on Fig.45. This shows a strong bias towards small enclosures, with

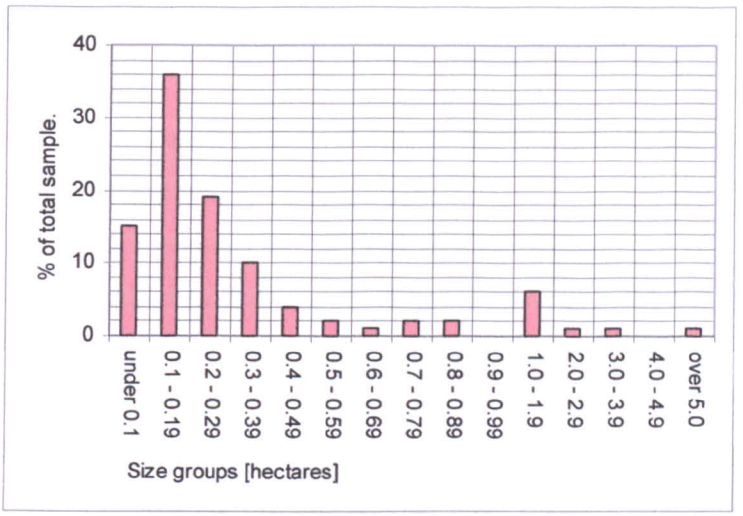


Fig.45 *The distribution by size of all Class A and B single enclosures with recorded areas Data shown as a percentage of the total sample. Total sample = 220 enclosures.*

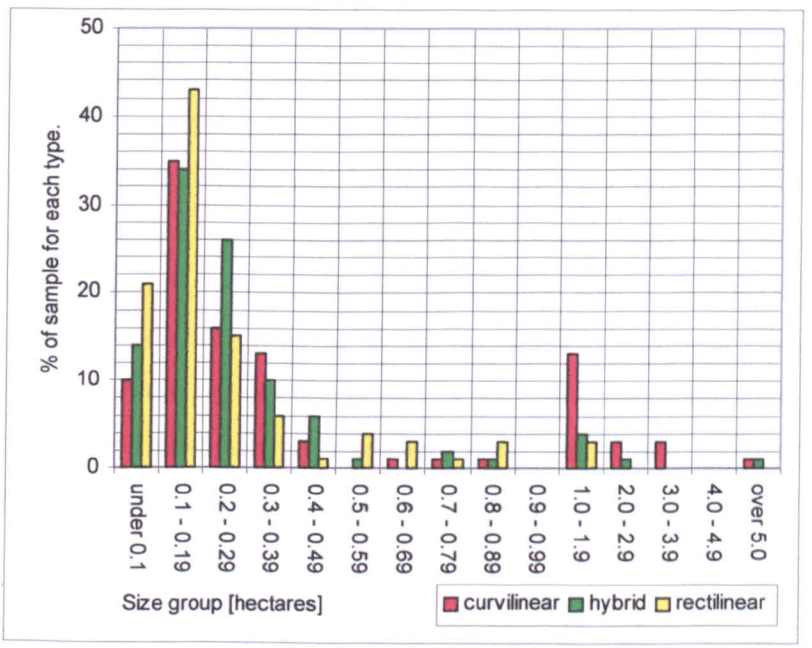


Fig.46 *The distribution by size and type of all Class A and B enclosures with recorded areas. Data shown as a percentage of each type sample total.*

80% of the sample having areas of less than 0.4ha. A clear peak occurs between 0.1ha and 0.19ha, with 36% of the sample occurring in this size group.

Only 10% of enclosures have areas between 0.4- 0.99ha, a small majority of these measuring less than 0.6ha. There is a small but significant peak in the occurrence of enclosures within the 1.0- 1.9ha size range, all but three of these

sites being classifiable as small hillforts. However, only 3% of the sample have areas larger than 2.0ha, the largest (CL01; Clatworthy Camp) having an area of 5.7ha.

On the basis of this overall pattern, it appears that the sample falls naturally into three main size groups:

Small enclosures – with areas under 0.4ha.

Medium enclosures – with areas between 0.4ha and 0.99ha.

Large enclosures – with areas of 1.0ha or larger.

Fig.46 shows the overall distribution of the three enclosure types in relation to size. From this, it is apparent that all types are most strongly represented by small enclosures, with 45% of curvilinears, 48% of hybrids and 64% of rectilinears having areas of less than 0.2ha. All show clear peaks in distribution occurring in the 0.1- 0.19ha size range, which contains 35% of all curvilinears, 34% of hybrids and 43% of rectilinears.

A potentially significant variation between types occurs amongst enclosures with areas of between 0.2- 0.49ha. Out of a total of 71 enclosures in this size range, 48% are of hybrid type, with 29% being curvilinear and 23% rectilinear.

Curvilinear enclosures are dominant amongst sites with areas of between 1.0-1.99ha, with 20% of the type sample occurring in this size range. This compares to 4% of hybrids and only 3% of the rectilinear sample. Curvilinear shapes are also dominant amongst the small number of sites with areas greater than 1.99ha. Rectilinears are the most poorly represented type amongst large enclosures, with only two examples having areas larger than 1.0 ha.

2.8.1 Relationships between enclosure size, elevation and slope.

In order to establish the extent to which elevation could be related to enclosure size, the three type samples were arranged into high, intermediate and low elevation groups as shown on Figs.47-49

The results for the sample of 68 curvilinear enclosures are shown on Fig.47. These revealed a clear pattern, with a marked increase in the proportions of medium and large enclosures with increasing elevation.

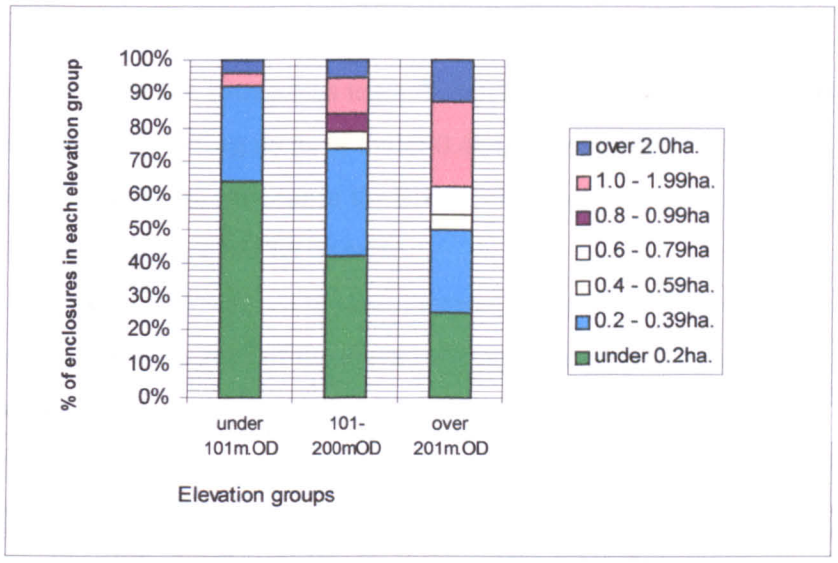


Fig. 47 *Curvilinear single enclosures : Distribution by size within elevation groups.*

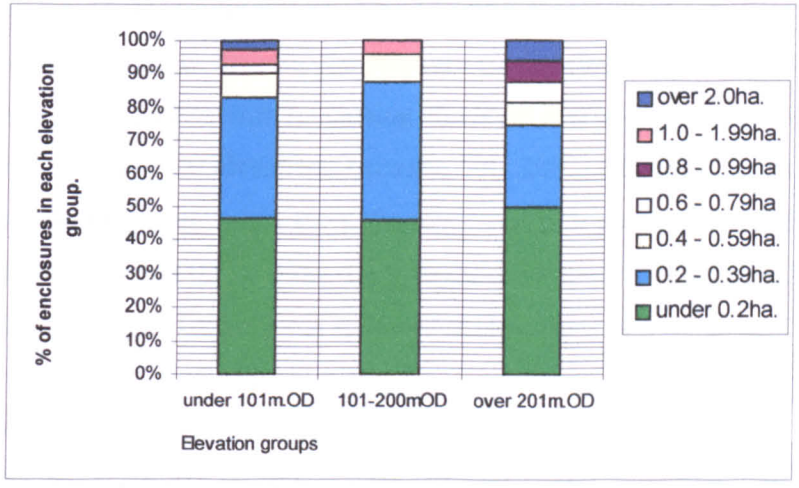


Fig. 48 *Hybrid single enclosures : Distribution by size within elevation groups.*

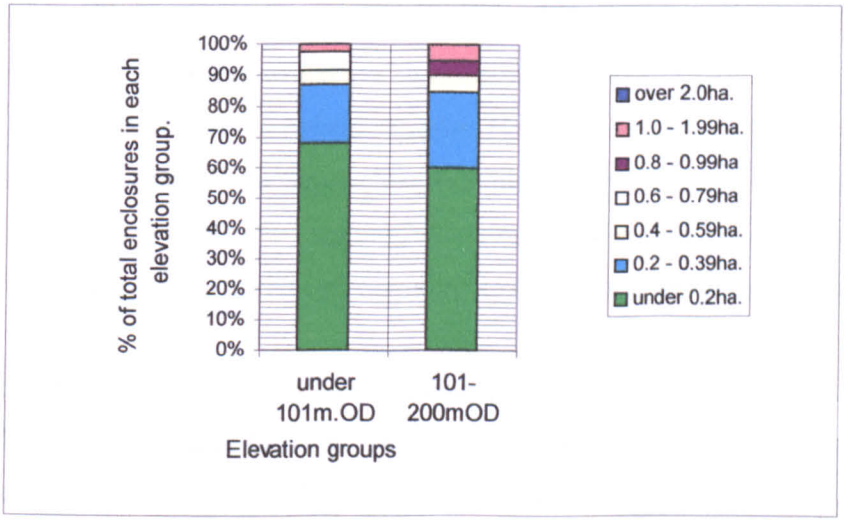


Fig. 49 *Rectilinear single enclosures : Distribution by size within elevation groups.*

Under 101m.OD there is a strong bias towards small enclosures, with 92% of the elevation range sample having areas of under 0.4ha.. A majority of these have areas of under 0.2ha. No sites occur in the 0.4- 0.99ha size range and only two examples (8%) have areas of 1.0ha or more.

Between 101- 200m.OD there is a modest increase in the proportion of medium and large enclosures, with 26% of the elevation range sample having areas of 0.4ha or greater.

Over 201m.OD there is a more even distribution of enclosure sizes, with 25% of the elevation range sample having areas of under 0.2ha and a further 25% measuring between 0.2- 0.39ha.. Large enclosures over 1.0ha in area account for 38% of this sample.

As shown on Fig.48, the sample of 81 hybrid enclosures revealed a markedly different pattern. Unlike curvilinears, the proportion of enclosures with areas of under 0.2ha shows no decline with increasing elevation and is very similar for all three elevation ranges. At elevations between 101- 200m.OD, however, a potentially significant variation occurs in the relatively high proportion (42%) of sites with areas of between 0.2- 0.39ha. Large hybrids are poorly represented in all three elevation ranges. This is most apparent at elevations of over 201m.OD, where only 6% have areas of 1.0ha or more.

In the case of rectilinear enclosures, an inadequate sample of sites located at over 200m.OD has restricted study to a total of 67 enclosures with low and intermediate elevations. As shown on Fig.49, rectilinears show a strong bias for small enclosures in both elevation ranges. In the 101- 200m.OD range, 60% of sites have areas of under 0.2ha, which is a significantly higher proportion than occurs in either the curvilinear or hybrid samples. However, in both elevation ranges there are proportionally fewer enclosures with areas between 0.2- 0.39ha. than in the other type samples. No meaningful comment can be made regarding larger rectilinears as only nine sites, representing 13% of this sample, have areas of 0.4ha or more.

In addition to the above, an attempt was made to establish the extent to which enclosure size could be related to slope. This proved to be inconclusive, with no obvious patterns being apparent and no potentially significant results obtained.

2.8.2 Summary of main points relating to enclosure size.

- All enclosure types show a strong bias towards small enclosures, with a large majority of the total sample measuring less than 0.4ha in area. For all types, clear distribution peaks occur in the 0.1- 0.19ha size range.
- Curvilinears have produced the clearest distribution pattern, which shows a substantial increase in the proportion of sites with areas of over 0.4ha with increasing elevation. They are the dominant type amongst enclosures with areas of 1.0ha or more.
- The distribution pattern for hybrids differs significantly from that for curvilinears, with markedly smaller proportions of larger enclosures at intermediate and high elevations. Hybrids are the dominant type amongst all enclosures with areas of 0.2- 0.49ha and, at intermediate elevations, a substantial proportion have areas between 0.2- 0.39ha.
- Of the three types, rectilinears have the highest proportion of enclosures with areas of 0.2ha or less, this being most apparent at elevations between 101-200m.OD. At all elevations, they are very poorly represented amongst enclosures with areas of 1.0ha or more.

2.9 Types of enclosure location.

In order to further examine the distribution of enclosures in relation to topographical factors, the locations of all class A and B enclosures with the exception of probable Roman military sites were placed into one of the following categories:

a) Dominant locations.

These occur on prominent topographical features and always enclose the highest point in the immediate locality. They dominate the landscape to varying degrees and, under present conditions, are visible from all directions for distances of at

least two kilometres. Only eight enclosures (3% of sample) are sited in this type of location.

b) Sub-dominant locations.

These are usually prominent and easily identifiable, but overlook more limited tracts of country than dominant locations. With the exception of Brewer's Castle (WH01) and Cow Castle (EX02) on Exmoor, they are always positioned below the highest point of a landform and thus lack visibility from all directions. However, all are visible from distances of one kilometre or more over an arc of at least 90°. Many overlook specific topographical features, such as approaches along ridges and valleys. Sub-dominant locations accommodate 60 enclosures, which represents 20% of the sample.

c) Non-dominant locations.

A total of 234 enclosures (77% of sample) are sited in non-dominant locations. Few of these are located at well defined points in the landscape, the majority occurring in topographically neutral situations. Enclosures with views extending over one kilometre are included only where there is nothing to suggest that visibility was a significant factor in the choice of location.

2.9.1 Relationships between location types and types of landform.

In order to examine the relationships between the three location types and specific topographical features, a series of landform types which accommodates all positions in the landscape where enclosures occur has been employed. This series is listed in Table 8, where the numbers of enclosures with non-dominant, sub-dominant and dominant locations occurring on each landform are shown as percentages of each location type. The same data is shown in numerical form on Fig.50.

In this analysis, the distinction between valley-side sites and those shown as occurring on the sides of other landforms is based on the relative position of the enclosure. Thus sites which occur on the lower-middle or lower slopes of a valley are listed as being on valley sides, whereas those which lie on more elevated slopes are shown as lying on the sides of landforms such as ridges or hill-crowns.

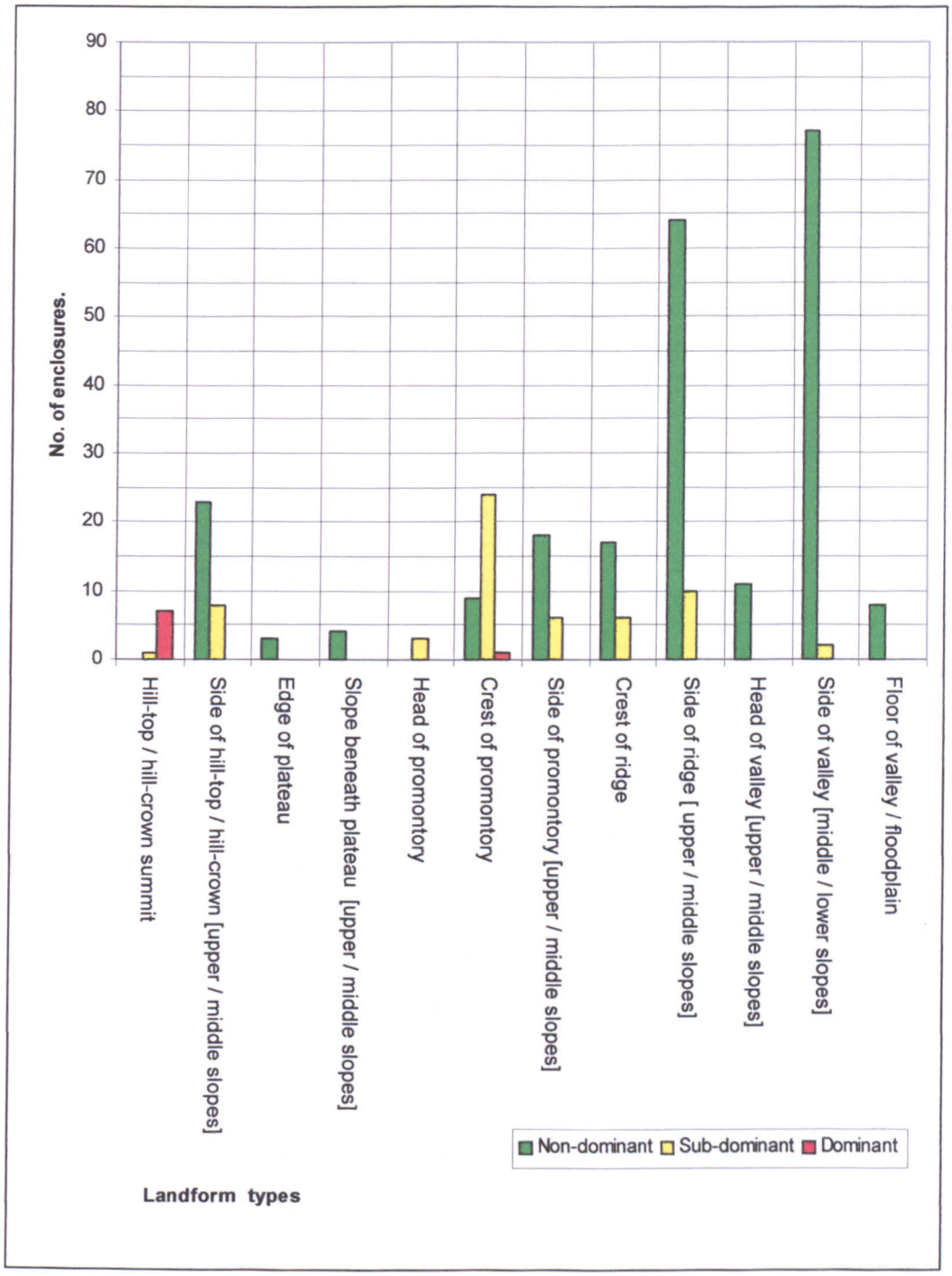


Fig.50 *The relationship between enclosure location types and landform types. Data shown as numbers of enclosures. Total sample = 302 sites.*

Type of landform	Non-dominant locations [%]	Sub-dominant locations [%]	Dominant locations [%]
Hill-top / summit of hill-crown	0	2	88
Side of hill-top or hill-crown	10	13	0
Edge of plateau	1	0	0
Slope beneath plateau	2	0	0
Head of promontory	0	5	0
Crest of promontory	4	40	12
Side of promontory	8	10	0
Crest of ridge	7	10	0
Side of ridge	27	17	0
Head of valley	5	0	0
Side of valley	33	3	0
Floor of valley / floodplain	3	0	0
Total enclosures %	100	100	100

Table 8 *The distribution of enclosure location types in relation to specific landform types. Total sample of enclosures = 302.*

As shown in Table 8 and on Fig.50, enclosures in non-dominant locations are best represented on the sides of valleys, with a marginally smaller percentage occurring on the sides of ridges. Although none are sited on hill-tops or the summits of broader hill-crowns, small numbers are present on the crests of ridges and promontories. Non-dominant locations are the only type represented at valley heads and on valley floors or floodplains.

On the basis of field evidence for extant monuments and map evidence for non-extant sites, 18% of enclosures in non-dominant locations were recorded as being sited on small topographic features on major landforms. Of these, 12% are positioned on minor promontories and the remainder on small terrace features or rises.

Some 30% of enclosures with non-dominant locations occur in areas of subdued relief, where gentle, often featureless slopes make it difficult to identify specific topographic features. A large majority of sites on such terrain occur below 50m.OD.

The largest proportion (57%) of enclosures in sub-dominant locations occur in prominent positions on the crests of promontories and ridges, promontory heads

and isolated knolls. Apart from Cow Castle and Brewer's Castle, which occupy hillocks rising from the floor of a deep valley, none of these enclose local high points or summits. A somewhat smaller proportion of enclosures (40%) occur in less prominent positions on slopes beneath hill-crowns, promontories and ridges, with only 3% being situated on lower valley sides.

Some 15% of enclosures in sub-dominant locations were recorded as being situated on minor topographic features, 12% of these occupying small promontories and the remainder being sited on rises. None occur in areas of subdued relief.

Unfortunately, the sample of enclosures in dominant locations is very small. Of the eight examples which have been recorded, seven are sited on the summits of hill-tops or broader hill-crowns and one lies on the crest of a promontory.

2.9.2 Relationships between location types, elevation and slope.

Fig.51 shows the distribution of the three location types in relation to elevation. It is apparent that, except for between 201- 300m.OD, non-dominant locations are occupied by the largest proportion of enclosures at all elevations. They are most strongly represented at elevations below 101m.OD, where they contain 91% of all enclosures.

Sub-dominant locations, however, are best represented at higher elevations, where they are occupied by 49% of all enclosures located at over 200m.OD. This is most apparent between 201- 300m.OD, where they are occupied by 55% of all enclosures. Although poorly represented below 101m.OD, they are occupied by 25% of all sites located between 101- 200m.OD. This latter figure is significant as it represents 42% of all enclosures with sub-dominant locations. In the case of dominant locations, these are too few in number for comment, except to note that they occur in all elevation ranges.

Fig.52 shows the distribution of the three location types in relation to slope. From this, it can be seen that non-dominant locations are occupied by over 50% of all enclosures in all slope groups. They are most strongly represented on slopes gentler than 1 in 25 and least well represented on slopes steeper than 1 in 10. Only 3% of enclosures in non-dominant locations are sited on or immediately adjacent to major changes of slope.

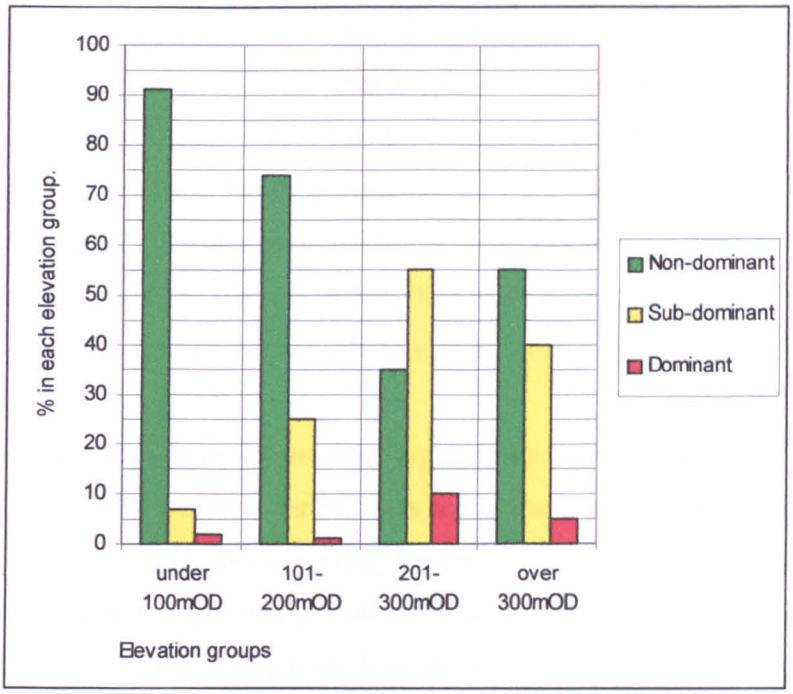


Fig.51 *The distribution of the three location types across the elevation range. Data shown as a percentage of the total enclosures in each elevation group.*

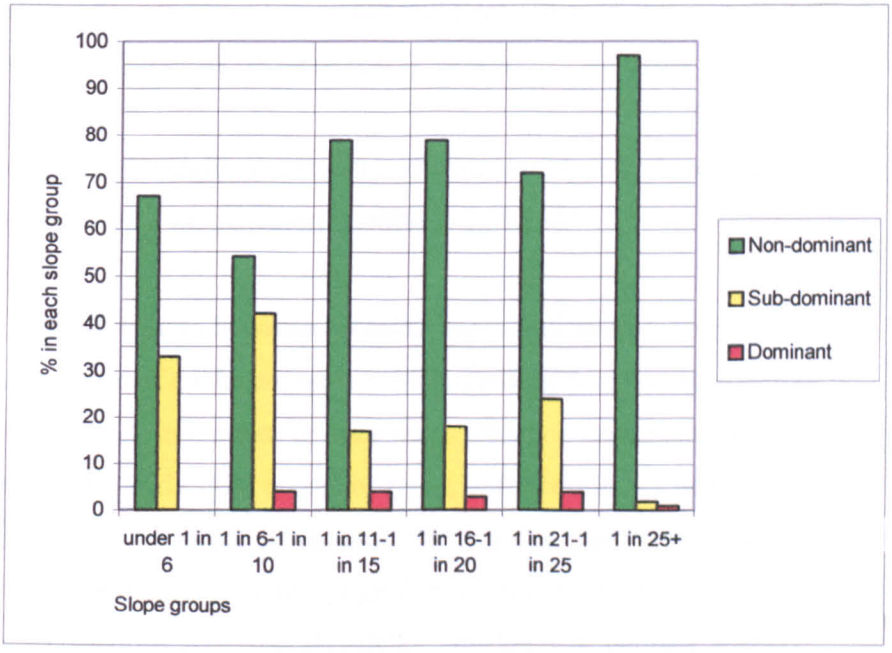


Fig.52. *The distribution of the three location types across the slope range. Data shown as a percentage of the total enclosures in each slope group.*

Enclosures in sub-dominant locations are best represented on slopes of 1 in 10 or steeper, where they comprise 41% of all sites. This latter figure represents 60% of all enclosures in this location type group. They are, however, poorly represented on slopes gentler than 1 in 25. In marked contrast to non-dominant locations, 52% were recorded as being sited on or immediately adjacent to major changes of slope. Enclosures in dominant locations occur in all slope groups with the exception of the steepest. All eight examples were recorded as having perimeters which lie on or are immediately adjacent to major changes of slope.

2.9.3 Relationships between location types and enclosure size.

The distribution of the three location types across the enclosure size range is recorded on Fig.53. This shows a strong bias towards small sizes amongst enclosures sited in non-dominant locations, with 61% having areas of under 0.2ha and a further 29% having areas between 0.2- 0.39ha. Only three sites (2%) have areas greater than 1.0 ha.

Enclosures sited in sub-dominant locations appear more evenly spread across the size range than those in non-dominant locations, with only 18% having areas of under 0.2 ha. There are two significant peaks in distribution, with 37% of enclosures having areas between 0.2- 0.39ha and 24% having areas greater than 1.0ha.

In the case of the eight enclosures with dominant locations, all have areas greater than 1.0ha, ranging from 1.45ha to 5.3ha..

2.9.4 Relationships between location types and enclosure types.

The distribution of enclosure types within the three location type groups is shown on Fig.54. In the case of enclosures with non-dominant locations there appears to be a fairly even spread of types, with rectilinears being the best represented at 41% of the group total. The sub-dominant group, however, shows a less even spread of types, with significantly fewer rectilinears (20%) and a substantial proportion of hybrids (48%). This latter percentage appears significant as it represents 30% of all recorded hybrids in the study area. Of the eight enclosures with dominant locations, seven (88%) are of curvilinear type and one (12%) is a hybrid.

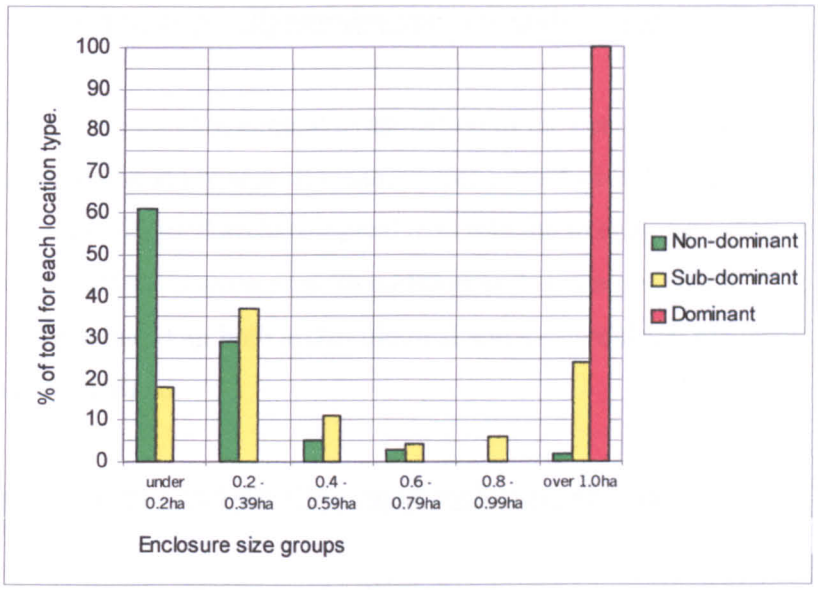


Fig.53. *The relationships between the three location types and enclosure size. Data shown as percentages of the total enclosures in each location type group.*

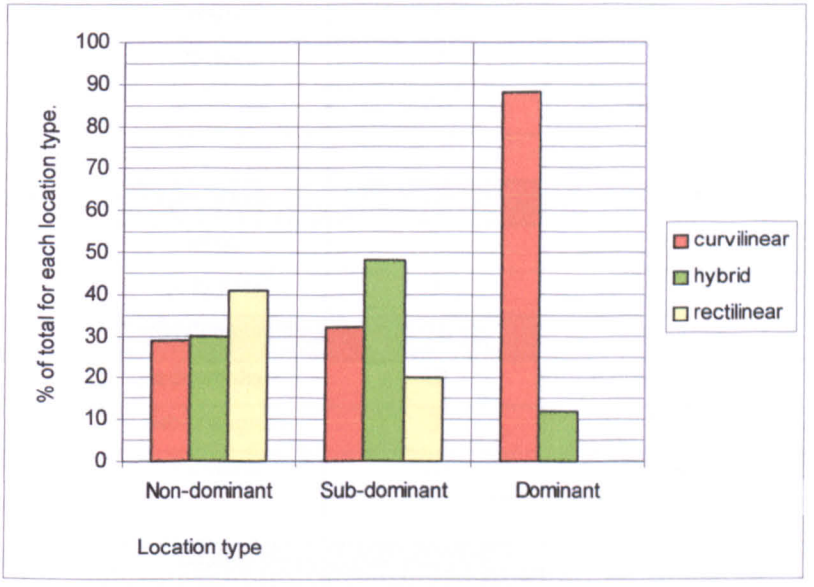


Fig.54. *The distribution of enclosure types within the location type groups. Data shown as percentages of the total enclosures in each location type group.*

Chapter 3 : Examining the archaeological evidence.

This chapter continues the general examination of the occurrence and distribution of enclosures in the study area. It is mainly concerned with the classification and analysis of more detailed archaeological data relating to enclosure shape and spatial relationships between sites. In addition to this, a series of specific enclosure types based on both archaeological and topographical evidence will be identified and defined.

3.1 The occurrence and distribution of enclosures shapes.

Type	Shape	Sample totals	% of type	% of total
Curvilinear	lobate	3	5	1
	ovoid	52	79	24
	round	9	14	4
	X-dyke	2	2	1
	Sub-total	*66*	*100%*	*30*
Hybrid	D-shaped	20	29	9
	lobate	3	4	1
	polygonal	3	4	1
	quadrangular	31	45	14
	quadrant-shaped	10	14	5
	sub-triangular	3	4	1
	Sub-total	*70*	*100%*	*31*
Rectilinear	oblong	27	33	12
	polygonal	12	15	6
	square	4	5	2
	trapezoid	38	46	18
	triangular	1	1	1
	Sub-total	*82*	*100%*	*39*
	TOTAL	**218**		**100%**

Table 9 *The occurrence of enclosure plan shapes.*

In order to examine these data, plans for all 218 class A enclosures were placed into one of the shape categories defined in 1.6.2. Statistics relating to the occurrence of each shape are shown on Table 9, with those sample totals considered sufficiently large for comparative study being highlighted. Plans for each enclosure are illustrated on Figs. 55-59.
An overview of the distribution and variety of enclosures within each shape category is given below.

3.1.1 Curvilinear plans. (Figs. 55, 56)

a) Ovoid.

Ranging in size from 0.03ha.to 2.75ha., ovoid enclosures are widely distributed across the study area and occur at all elevations, on all slopes and in all types of location. The ten examples with areas greater than 1.0 ha have been classified as hillforts and are described separately in 3.4.1.
The remainder of the ovoid sample ranges in size from 0.03- 0.75ha. All appear to be single-delineation enclosures, the large majority of which have ditched perimeters. Ten of these smaller sites are extant, with one example (BR02, Bury Castle, Brompton Regis) having been remodelled for use as a motte and bailey castle (Wilson-North and Riley 1996). Perimeters partly defined by major scarping are present at Trendle Ring (BN01, 4.1.3) and at Brewer's Castle near Dulverton (WH01). A large outer bank and an in-turned entrance occur at Black Ball Camp, Dunster (DU01, 4.4.1) and the ploughed out remains of a substantial counterscarp bank have been identified at Trottsway Cross, Cutcombe (CU01).

b) Round.

The nine examples of this shape are widely dispersed and occur across the elevation and gradient ranges. All appear to be single-ditched enclosures and range in size from 0.007ha. (CH11; Maidenbrook Farm, Cheddon Fitzpaine) to 5.3ha. (NF01; Norton Fitzwarren Camp), which is described in 4.3.1a.
At Maidenbrook Farm, the circular enclosure revealed through excavation had an internal diameter of c.9m and was tentatively interpreted as a pen for animals or possibly a later Iron Age shrine (5.1.2). In the case of a near circular cropmark at Willstock Farm, North Petherton (NP10), it has been suggested that this might

represent a ritual monument of earlier prehistoric date (HER No. 11888). However, as the air photograph images suggest a somewhat irregular ditch plan, this feature has been included in this study.

c) Lobate.

The three curvilinear enclosures of lobate shape are all located in the south-eastern Quantocks. The largest of these (BF10; Rook's Castle, Broomfield) has been revealed mainly by aerial photography and appears to consist of a partly extant ovoid enclosure, c.0.85ha in area, with a large annex attached to its eastern side. Air photograph images suggest that both annex and main enclosure have slightly in-turned entrances. Also in Broomfield parish, air photograph images of a site at Ivyton Farm (BF04) indicate an inner ovoid enclosure with a possible entrance passage and at least three ditched annexes (4.3.2a). A third site (KM06; Kingston St. Mary) appears to represent part of a group of conjoined curvilinear enclosures (4.3.3a).

d) Cross-dyke enclosures.

Only two examples of this type have been identified. Consisting of Grabbist Hill (DU02; 4.4.1) on Exmoor and Castle Neroche (CR01) on the Blackdowns, both are of hillfort proportions and are described separately in 3.4.1.

3.1.2 Hybrid plans. (Figs.57, 58)

a) D-shaped.

Eighteen out of the twenty recorded D-shaped enclosures lie in the eastern part of the study area, with a large majority occurring below 100m.OD. Five occur in the southern Quantocks, six in the lowlands east of the Quantocks and seven in the Vale of Taunton. Only two examples (LX01, TO02) are recorded from the Exmoor / Brendon area. A large majority of these enclosures are small, with only two examples exceeding 0.3ha in area. The largest example (CN02; Cannington Camp) is a hillfort and is described separately in 3.4.1.

Of the smaller D-shaped enclosures, all appear to be of single ditched type except for KM16 (Yarford, Kingston St. Mary) and SN02 (Furze Grove, Stringston). In the former case, excavation has revealed two substantial ditches

which appear to be contemporary (4.3.2b). However, at Furze Grove the air photograph evidence suggests that the slight outer ditch could result from the modification of an existing enclosure (4.1.2). At Monkslade Common (LX01) the enclosure is extant and has an area of c.0.15ha. It consists of a D-shaped platform cut into the hillside, with a broad outer ditch and traces of a counterscarp bank. Near Dene Cross, Bishop's Lydeard, two tiny D-shaped enclosures (BL06,07; 4.3.1b) are located within larger trapezoidal features; one (BL06) being attached to a perimeter ditch. At Oggshole Farm, Broomfield (BF13; 4.3.4a) and at Inwood Farm, Nether Stowey (NS03) well defined enclosures are attached to substantial linear ditch features.

b) Quadrangular.

These are fairly widely distributed, with a majority occurring in the southern Quantocks and around the fringes of the Brendons at elevations of between 70-270m.OD. Most examples are small, with only one (CP01) exceeding 0.5ha in area.

All enclosures appear to be single-ditched with the exception of KM07 and KM10, which are located at Volis Farm near Kingston St. Mary. A recent excavation at KM07 has shown that this was a multi-period site, with an inner enclosure of Iron Age date being replaced during the early Roman period by a narrower outer ditch (4.3.3a).

Two examples, both located on Exmoor, are substantial extant monuments sited in sub-dominant positions. At Bury Castle, Selworthy (SE01; 4.4.4a), an enclosed area of 0.22ha has adjacent linear outworks which may represent an annex. Staddon Hill Camp, Winsford (WF02) comprises a single bank and ditch enclosing 0.18 ha and has two adjacent linear outworks.

Fieldwork at Woodworthy Farm, Chipstable (CP01) has identified an extant bank and ditch which may form part of an annex to an enclosure revealed by air photography and geophysical survey (4.2.2). At Rydon Farm, West Quantoxhead, a broad ditched feature contains a well-defined inner enclosure and may represent an enlargement or annex. Traces of attached linear features are also visible on air photographs of enclosures at Milverton (MV01), Old Cleeve (OC03) and North Petherton (NP21).

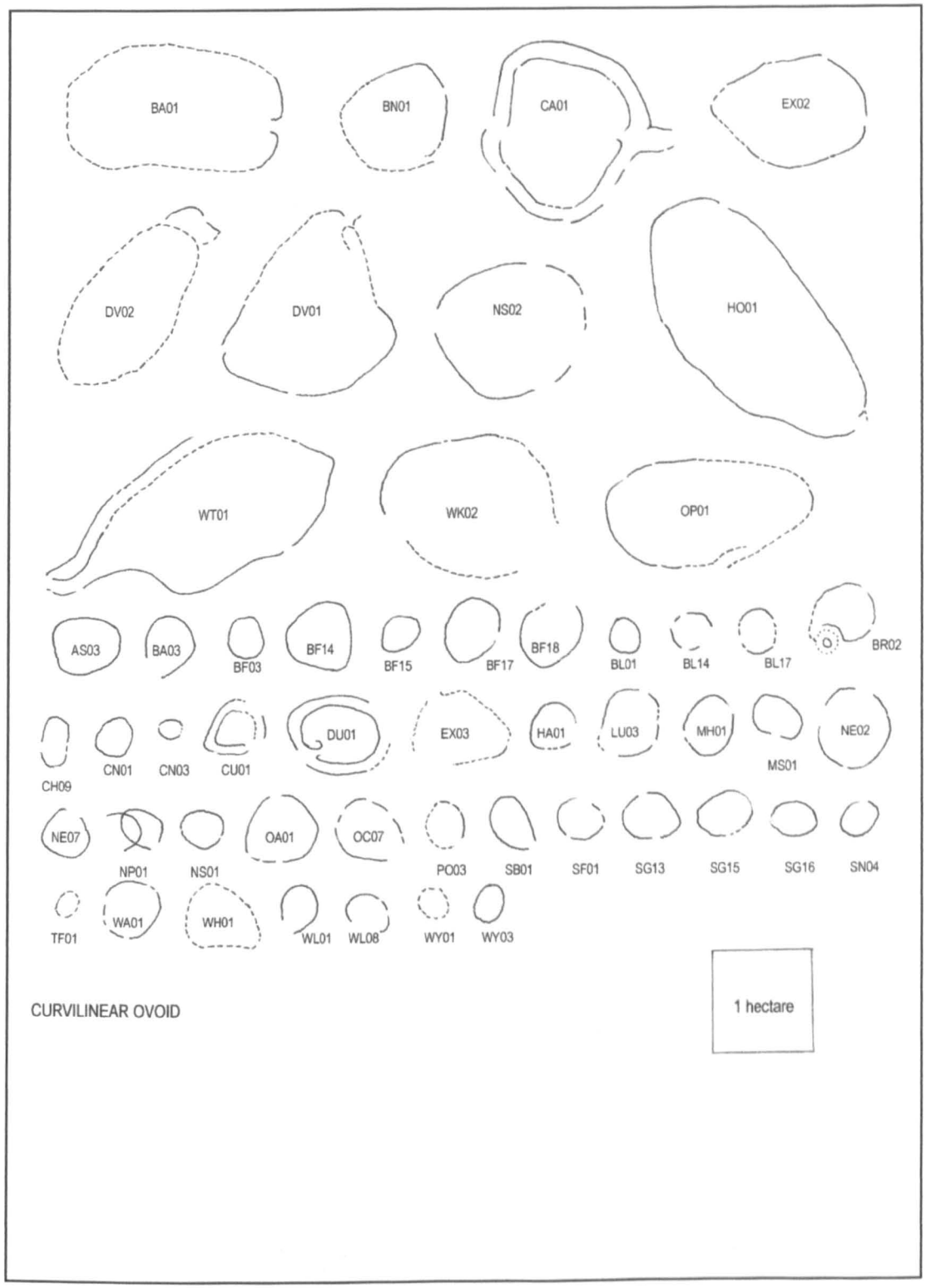


Fig. 55 *Curvilinear enclosure shapes.*

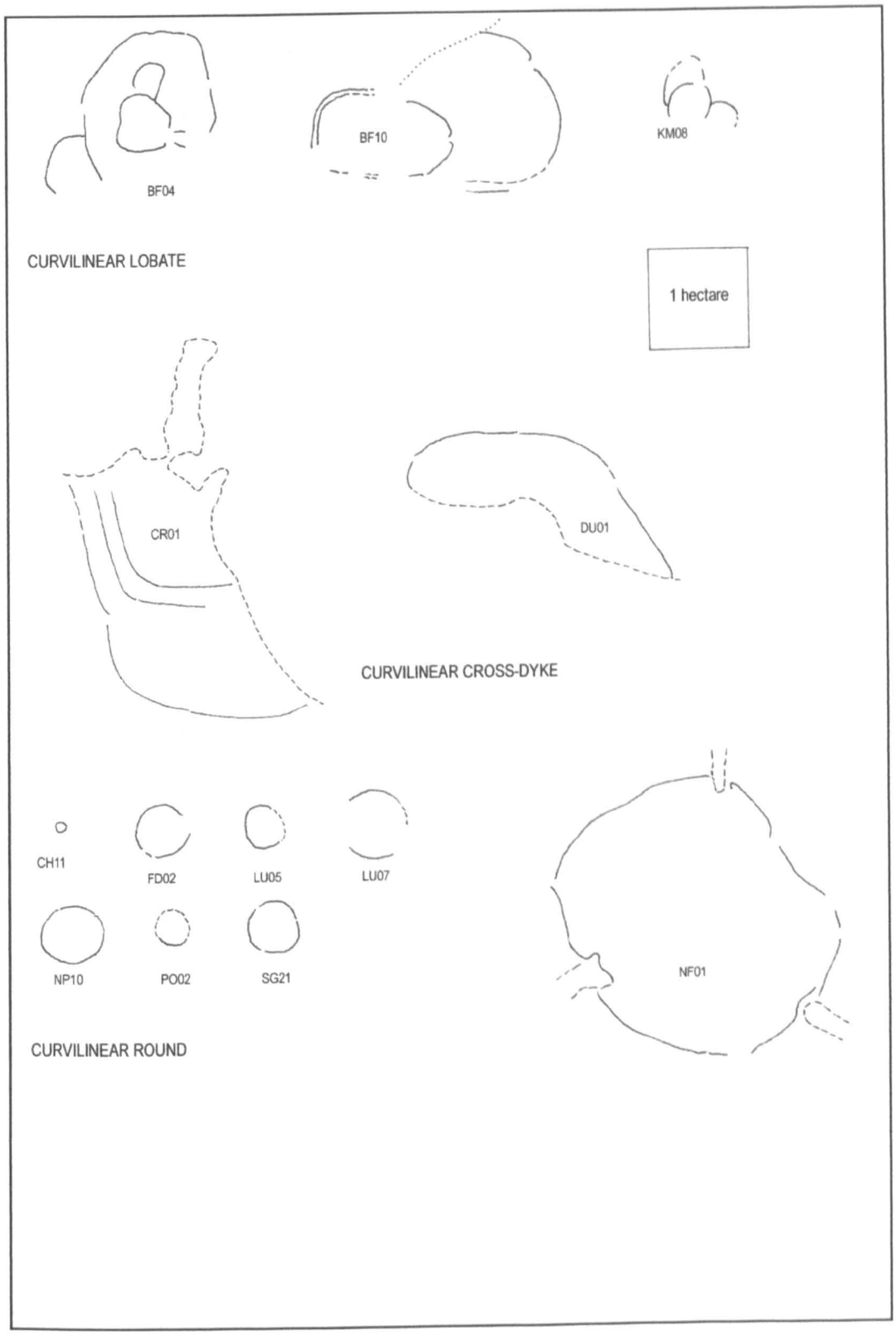


Fig.56 *Curvilinear enclosure shapes.*

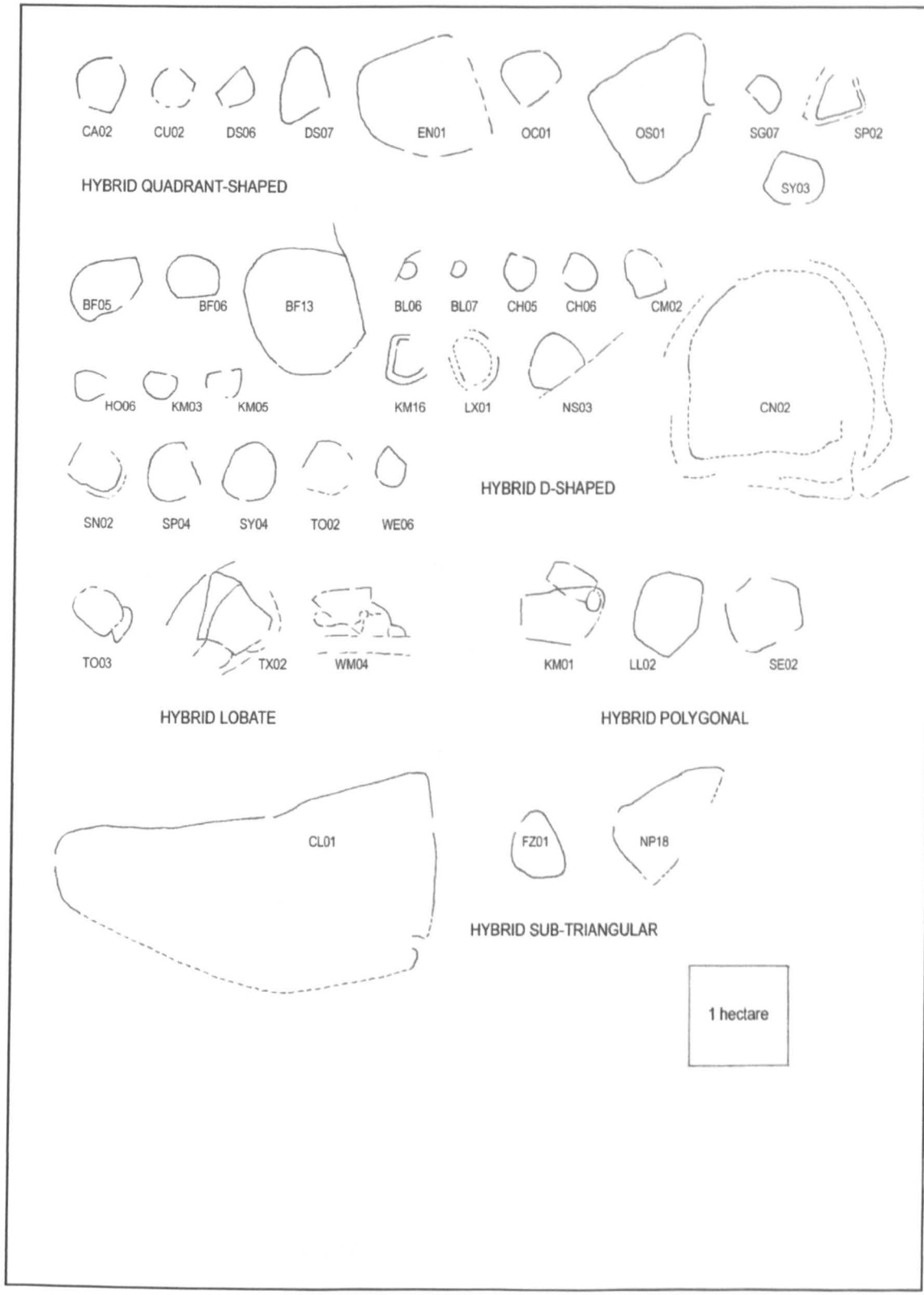


Fig.57 Hybrid enclosure shapes.

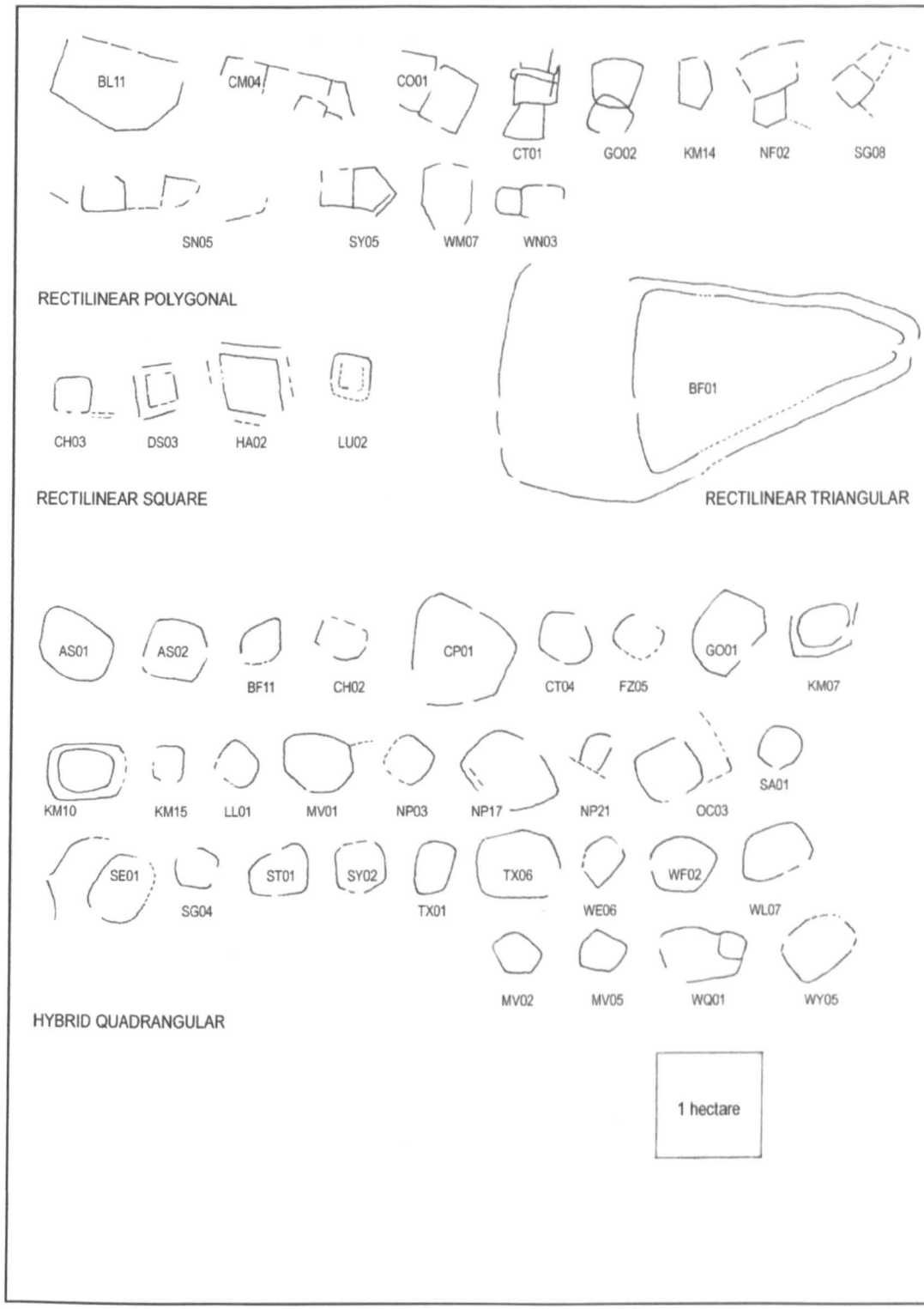


Fig.58 *Hybrid and rectilinear shapes.*

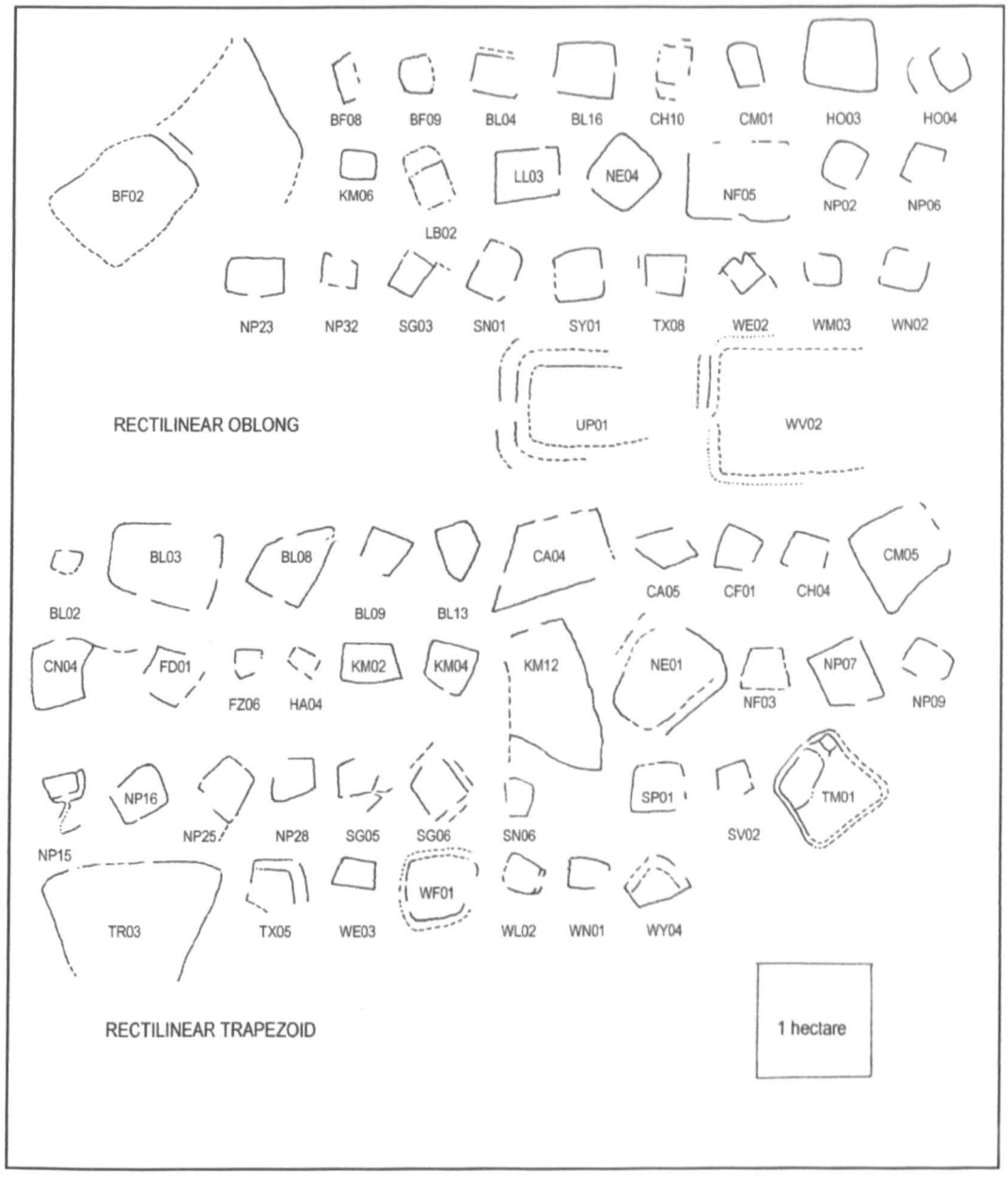


Fig.59 *Rectilinear enclosure shapes.*

c) Quadrant-shaped.

The ten examples of this shape have a wide distribution. All appear to have a single ditch except for SP02 (Holmes Farm, Spaxton), which is double-ditched and has adjacent linear features.

Of the three extant enclosures, Plainsfield Camp near Over Stowey (OS01; 4.1.3) occupies a sub-dominant location and has an area of 0.87ha. Its shape clearly reflects the local topography, with the northern edge being mainly defined by major scarping of the natural slope. Also located in a sub-dominant position is an extant enclosure of 0.18ha at Long Wood, Carhampton (CA02; 4.4.4a). At

Codsend Moor, Cutcombe (CU02), a small quadrant-shaped enclosure is incorporated within an extant field system at 410m.OD (4.4.3).

d) Lobate.

Of the three hybrid examples, two (WM04, TX02) are located in the south-east Quantocks and the other (TO03) in the south-east Brendons.

At Boez Lane, Thurloxton (TX02), a complex cropmark totalling c.0.5ha in area appears to consist of two conjoined quadrangular enclosures with narrow outer ditches forming irregular elongated annexes. A smaller complex feature occurs near New Cross, West Monkton (WM04). Although the air photograph images are poor, this appears to comprise both angular and curvilinear elements bordering a track or droveway. Near Smithclose Cottage, Tolland (TO03), a small D-shaped enclosure appears to have a curvilinear annex attached to one side; the whole totalling c.0.2ha in area.

e) Polygonal.

The three hybrid examples are widely dispersed across the region. Single-ditched enclosures of pentagonal shape are located at Tivington Farm, Selworthy (SE02) and Combe Wood, Lydeard St. Lawrence (LL02). Both are of similar size and shape but occur in different types of location. At Lower Marsh Farm, Kingston St. Mary (KM01), a polygonal cropmark photographed by Aston in 1976 appears to consist of two overlapping enclosures associated with a smaller round feature (4.3.3b).

f) Sub-triangular.

This small group contains Clatworthy Camp (CL01), which is described separately in 3.4.1. The other two examples consist of a small enclosure in a sub-dominant position (FZ01, Cat's Ash, Fitzhead) and a medium-sized feature with a clear entrance gap at Copse Farm, Huntworth (NP18).

3.1.3 **Rectilinear plans.** (Figs. 58, 59)

a) Trapezoidal.

These are largely confined to lower elevations in the eastern half of the study area, with 74% occurring in the Vale of Taunton, the south-east Quantocks and the lowlands east of the Quantocks. 55% of the shape sample are sited on gentle slopes in non-dominant locations. Of the smaller sites under 0.25ha in area, which comprise 76% of the sample, none exceed 150m.OD in elevation and a large majority lie below 100m.OD.

Only two examples occur on Exmoor; both of these being extant monuments which occupy sub-dominant locations and have markedly sub-angular plans. At Road Castle, Winsford (WF01), an area of 0.32ha is enclosed by a substantial bank and ditch on its southern and western sides, with a large scarp defining the northern side. At Timberscombe Wood (TM01; 4.4.4a), an enclosure of 0.48ha in area is bounded on two sides by a bank and ditch, with a steep scarp forming the rest of the perimeter.

On the edge of the Brendons at Castle Hill, Nettlecombe (NE01), a trapezoidal feature shown on vertical air photographs suggests a substantial enclosure with an internal area of c.0.5ha. As this feature occupies a prominent, sub-dominant position, it seems likely that it represents a ploughed-out enclosure of similar type to the Exmoor examples.

A group of medium-sized trapezoids, (BL03, CA04, CM05, KM12, TR03), all located below 108m.OD, is of some interest and will be discussed further in 3.4.5. Amongst the smaller enclosures, a large majority are angular, straight-sided features with areas of between 0.05ha and 0.25ha. One example (SG06, Stogumber) appears to be double-ditched and three others (TX05, Thurloxton; WY04, Rodhuish; WL02, Williton) have internal partitions or annexes. Traces of attached linear features occur at North Petherton (NP25) and near Stogumber (SG05), and an irregular enclosure at Cannington (CN04) is attached to a sinuous ditch system. At Impen's Farm, North Petherton (NP15; 3.3b), a small trapezoidal feature with an inner partition and a narrow corridor approach appears to be an enclosure of 'banjo' type.

b) Oblong.

The overall distribution of this shape is similar to that for trapezoids, with 89% occurring in the eastern part of the study area at elevations below 200m.OD. None are recorded from Exmoor and only three examples occur on the fringes of the Brendons.

Three oblong enclosures have been identified as Roman military works. Of these, an extant site near Wiveliscombe (WV02) has produced a small quantity of early Roman pottery (HER No. 43793). Also thought to be of military origin are partly extant earthworks at Rainsbury Farm, Upton (UP01; Riley and Wilson-North 2001, 77-8) and a cropmark enclosure (NF05) with a probable 'clavicula' type entrance at Norton Fitzwarren (4.3.1a).

At Higher Castles, Broomfield (BF02; 4.3.2a), an irregular oblong earthwork enclosing 0.85ha has adjacent linear features which may have formed an outer enclosure or annex.

Amongst the smaller examples, sites at Maylands, Wellington (WE02; 5.1.3) and Combe Cross, Stogumber (SG03) have attached ditch features which suggest that they may form part of more complex sites. Features suggestive of annexes are present at Stoneage Barton, Bishop's Lydeard (BL16; 5.1.3), Nerrol's Farm, Cheddon Fitzpaine (CH10) and Langford Budville (LB02), with traces of possible outer ditch occurring at Bullenshay Farm, Thurloxton (TX08) and Dodington, Holford (HO04).

c) Square.

The four examples of this plan shape include an extant feature on Exmoor at Doverhay Down (LU02; 4.4.4a). Of the remainder, two are double-ditched air photograph images (HA02, Halse; DS03, Durston), the smaller of which (DS03) is listed in the Somerset HER as a possible Romano-Celtic temple (File No. 44195).

d) Polygonal.

All twelve examples of this plan shape are located in the eastern part of the study area, with none being recorded from the Exmoor / Brendon area or the Blackdown Hills. None occur on steep slopes and only one lies above 85m.OD.

Of the single enclosures, a hexagonal example enclosing 0.76ha at Longlands Farm, Bishop's Lydeard (BL11; 4.3.1b) may be related to the medium-sized trapezoidal enclosures noted in 3.1.3a. Two other examples are of pentagonal shape, the larger (WM07, West Monkton) occurring in a sub-dominant location at 130m.OD. and the smaller (KM14, Kingston St. Mary) in an area of subdued relief at 45m.OD. Near Halswell House, Goathurst (GO02) a polygonal cropmark consists of two overlapping single enclosures, the larger of which is of trapezoidal shape (3.3b).

The remaining eight polygonal plans appear to represent more complex enclosures, one of which (CT01; Cothelstone) has been recently excavated and shown to be a multi-period site (5.1.3). At Heale, Corfe (CO01) and near Hinkley Point, Stogursey (SY05; 5.1.3), the recorded features suggest possible conjoined enclosures, whereas at Manor Farm, Wembdon (WN03) and within Norton Fitzwarren hillfort (NF02; 4.3.1a) the smaller attached enclosures have the appearance of annexes. More extensive enclosure complexes are suggested by air photograph images of sites at Plud Farm, Stringston (SN05), Langaller (CM04) and possibly Stogumber (SG08; 4.1.1). With the exception of SG08, all of these more complex sites occur on gentle or very gentle slopes at elevations below 85m.OD.

e) Triangular.

Ruborough Camp, Broomfield (BF01) falls within this category and is described separately in 3.4.1.

3.1.4 Relationships between shape and selected attributes.

As indicated on Table 9, shape sample sizes which are sufficiently large for comparative study are limited to ovoid, oblong, trapezoid, quadrangular and D-shaped enclosures. As the two rectilinear shapes are morphologically similar and include many borderline examples, they will be treated here as a single sample and referred to as oblong / trapezoids.

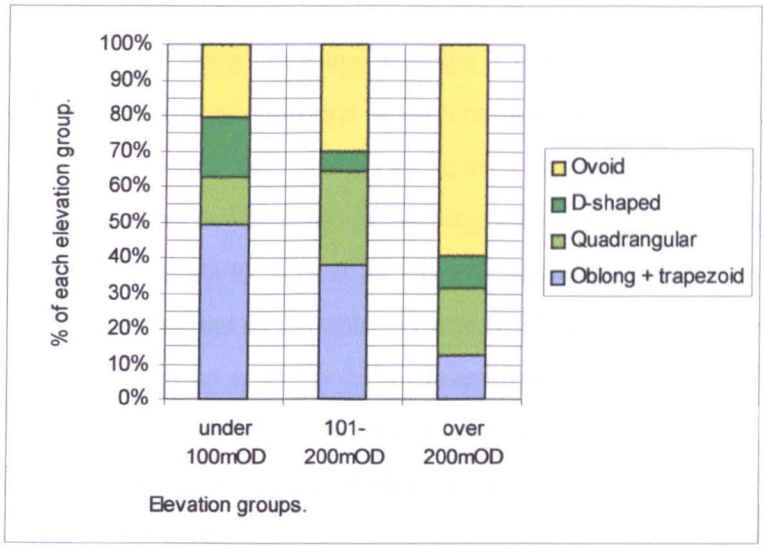


Fig.60 *The occurrence of the main enclosure shapes in relation to elevation.*

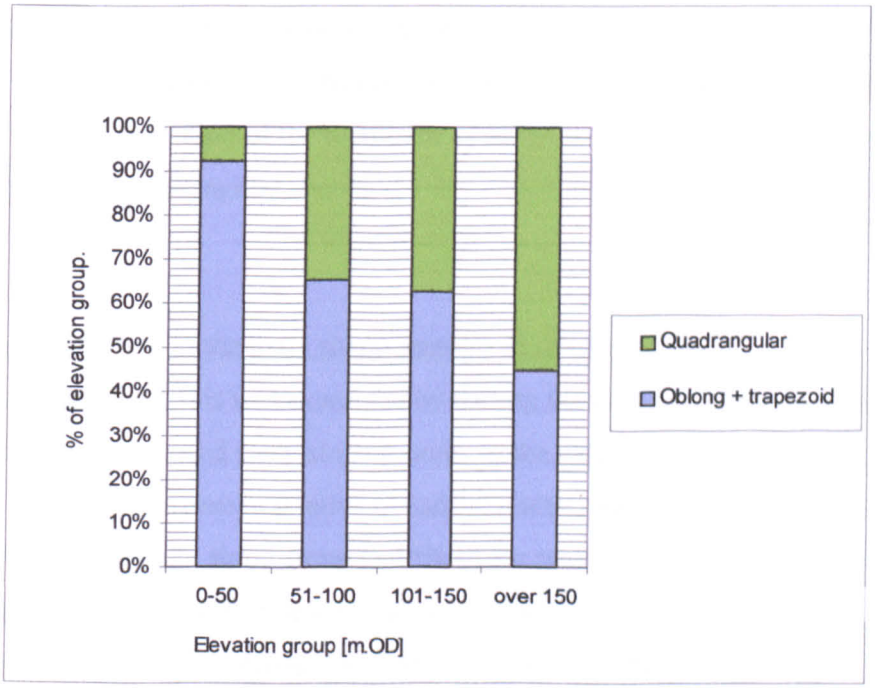


Fig.61 *The relative proportions of oblong / trapezoid and quadrangular shapes at lower elevations.*

a) The distribution of the main shape samples in relation to elevation.

Fig.60 shows the relative proportions of each main shape sample occurring within three broad elevation groups. It can be seen that, with increasing elevation, there is a marked increase in the proportion of ovoids, rising from 21% of the low elevation group to 59% of the high elevation group. The reverse situation applies in the case of the oblong / trapezoid sample, which forms 49% of the low elevation group and only 13% of the high elevation group. Patterns for the quadrangular and D-shaped samples are less clearly defined, with the former being best represented at intermediate elevations (26% of group) and the latter at low elevations (17% of group).

Fig.61 shows a more detailed record of data relating to the quadrangular and oblong / trapezoid shape samples. It indicates the relative proportions of each shape occurring in four elevation groups. A clear pattern is present, with the proportion of quadrangular forms increasing from 8% of the 0-50m.OD group to 55% of the + 150m.OD group. Oblongs and trapezoids forms show a corresponding decrease in proportion, from 92% of the 0-50m.OD group to 45% of the + 150m.OD group. These results look convincing and appear to support the typological separation of the rectilinear oblongs and trapezoids from the more irregular hybrid quadrangular shapes.

b) The distribution of the main shape samples in relation to slope.

As shown on Fig.62, this was examined by sorting the four main shape samples into gentle, moderate and steep slope groups. In the case of the ovoid sample, there is a marked increase in relative occurrence with increasing slope, rising from 25% of the gentle slope group to 47% of the steep slope group. A broadly similar pattern is apparent for quadrangulars, which rise from 10% of the gentle group to 26% of the steep group. However, the reverse situation occurs with oblong / trapezoids, which show a relative decrease from 52% of the gentle group to 21% of the steep group. Similarly, D-shaped enclosures form 13% and 15% of the gentle and moderate groups respectively, but only 6% of the steep slope group.

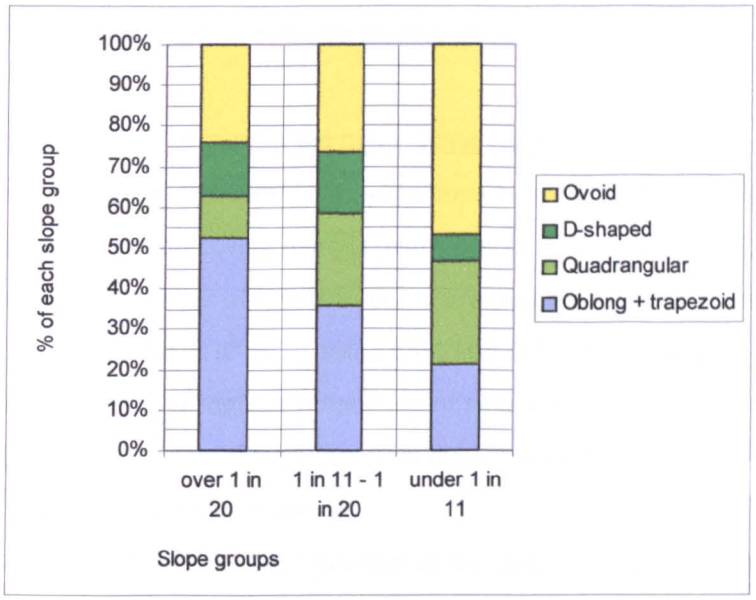


Fig.62 *The occurrence of the main enclosure shapes in relation to slope.*

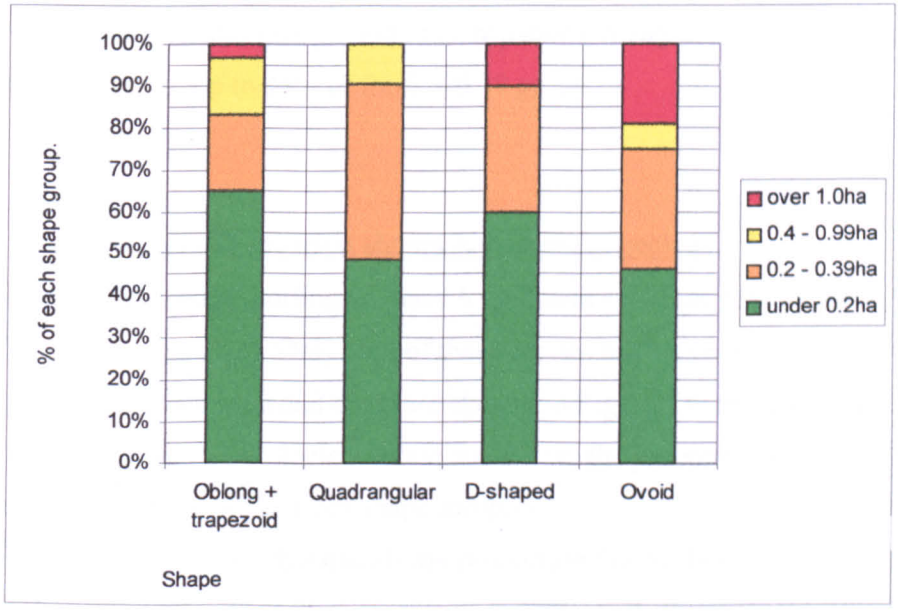


Fig.63 *The distribution by size of the main enclosure shapes.*

These results suggest potentially significant changes in the relative proportions of the main shape samples across the slope range, with oblong / trapezoids and

D-shapes showing a preference for gentler slopes and curvilinear and quadrangular shapes a bias towards steeper slopes.

c) The distribution by size of the main shape samples.

As shown on Fig.63, there are some variations between enclosure shapes in relation to size, but no strong overall patterns appear to be present. However, it is clear that enclosed areas of less than 0.2ha are best represented amongst oblong / trapezoid and D-shaped sites, forming 65% and 60% of the samples respectively. It also appears that the highest proportion of sites with areas of between 0.4ha and 0.99ha occurs in the oblong / trapezoid sample and that areas of over 1.0ha are best represented amongst ovoids.

Fig.64 provides a different perspective on the data relating to small enclosures and shows the relative proportions of each shape occurring in four size groups. In the case of the oblong / trapezoid sample, it can be seen that there is a regular pattern of size distribution, falling from 53% of the 0-0.1ha group to 19% of the 0.3-0.39ha group. The reverse situation occurs in the case of quadrangulars, which comprise only 9% of the 0-0.1ha group but 31% of the 0.3-0.39ha group. Ovoids show a similar though less regular pattern, rising in proportion from 19% of the 0-0.1ha group to 44% of the 0.3-0.39 group.

d) The occurrence of the main shapes in relation to geology.

This was examined by sorting all class A enclosures into the lithological groups defined in Table 4 (2.5). Only four of these groups had sample sizes sufficiently large for further analysis and these are shown on Fig.65. On this chart, each column represents a lithological group and shows the proportion of other shapes in addition to those of the main shape samples.

It is clear from this data that ovoids are proportionally the best represented shape on palaeozoic grits and sandstones, forming 57% of all shapes on this lithology. However, oblong / trapezoids are proportionally best represented on the mudstones and gravels, where they account for 42% and 39% of the group totals respectively. Given the relative distributions of curvilinear and rectilinear enclosures identified in 2.5, this result seems predictable. However, no such clear pattern appears to occur for hybrid D-shaped and quadrangular enclosures.

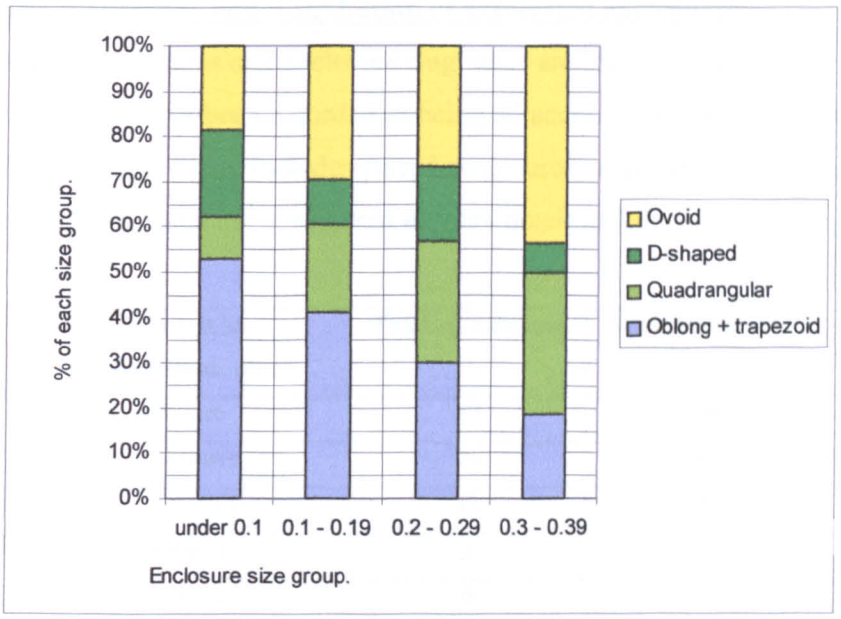
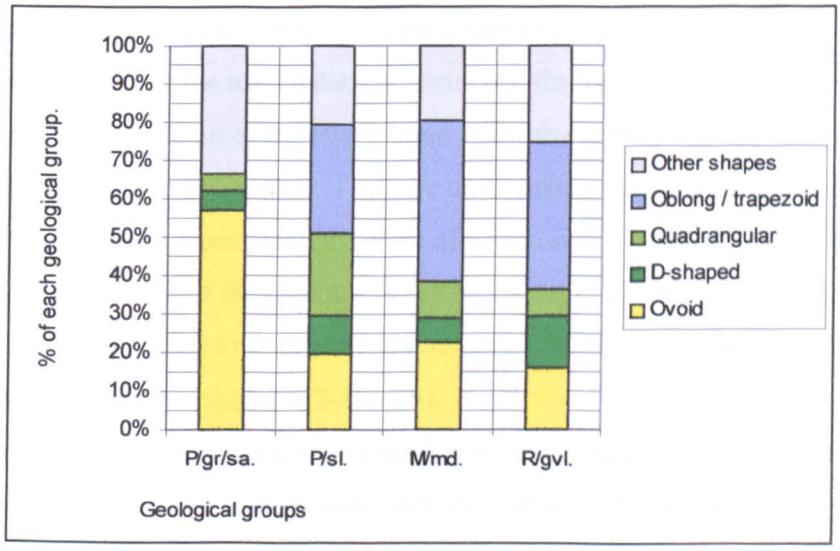


Fig. 64 *Small enclosures : distribution of main shapes within size groups.*



KEY : P/gr/sa = Palaeozoic grits and sandstones ; P/sl = Palaeozoic slates
M/md = Mesozoic mudstones ; R/gvl = Recent gravels.

Fig. 65 *The occurrence of the main enclosure shapes in the main geological groups.*

3.2 The occurrence and distribution of associated enclosures.

In total, 136 enclosures and enclosure fragments are located within 200m of another site and have been recorded as being adjacent. Comprising 41% of the total database, this figure includes paired enclosures, which are located within 50m of each other and are considered in more detail in 3.2.1.

Adjacent to [within 200m. of] :	Total on database	% of total database
One other enclosure	87	26%
Two other enclosures	26	8%
Three other enclosures	13	4%
Four other enclosures	4	1%
Five other enclosures	6	2%
Total adjacent enclosures	**136**	**41%**

Table 10. Adjacent enclosures.

As can be seen from the above table, enclosures within 200m of one other site account for 26% of the total database. Evidence for these occurs across the study area with the exception of the Blackdown Hills, the central and southern Brendons and most of Exmoor. They are most strongly represented in the south-east Quantocks (25 examples), the Vale of Taunton (22 examples) and the lowlands to the east of the Quantocks (18 examples). Although dispersed across the elevation range up to 230m.OD, the majority (57%) lie below 100m.OD, with only 8% occurring above 200m.OD.

Sites with more than one adjacent enclosure account for 15% of the database. The majority of these are associated with two other enclosures and occur at elevations of up to 350m.OD. A substantial proportion (58%) are located at between 95-165m.OD in the south-eastern Quantocks.

Sites adjacent to three or more other enclosures are restricted to a small number of enclosure clusters in the Vale of Taunton and the south-east Quantocks. With the exception of a cluster at Ivyton Farm, Broomfield, which is located at 225m.OD, these all occur at elevations below 140m.OD.

The typology of adjacent enclosures.

A type / shape classification of all class A and B adjacent enclosures, including paired examples, is shown in the following table.

Type	Shape	No. of sites	% of total
Curvilinear	Lobate	2	2%
	Ovoid	14	12%
	Round	3	3%
	Class B partial	7	6%
	Sub-total	**26**	**23%**
Hybrid	D-shaped	13	11%
	Lobate	1	1%
	Quadrangular	9	8%
	Quadrant-shaped	2	2%
	Class B partial	12	10%
	Sub-total	**37**	**32%**
Rectilinear	Oblong	10	8%
	Polygonal	3	3%
	Square	1	1%
	Trapezoid	20	18%
	Class B partial	17	15%
	Sub-total	**51**	**45%**
	TOTAL	**114**	**100%**

Table 11. *The typology of adjacent enclosures.*

From this data, it is apparent that significantly more rectilinear enclosures are adjacent to other sites than is the case for the other types. Trapezoids are the most frequently occurring shape and, in combination with the typologically similar oblong group, form 26% of all adjacent enclosures. Hybrid types are also well represented, with D-shaped enclosures forming 11% of the total sample. Curvilinear types, however, occur less frequently and are mainly of ovoid shape.

A somewhat clearer pattern emerges when the main shapes represented amongst adjacent enclosures are considered in relation to the size of each shape category.

Shape.	Number of sites occurring as adjacent enclosures.	Total number of sites in shape category.	Proportion of shape category occurring as adjacent enclosures.
D-shaped	13	20	65%
Oblong / trapezoid	30	65	46%
Quadrangular	9	31	29%
Ovoid	14	52	27%

Table 12. Shapes of adjacent enclosures.

It can be seen from the above table that D-shaped and oblong / trapezoid shapes are proportionally better represented amongst adjacent enclosures than are quadrangular and ovoid forms. It seems possible that this is related to geographical distribution, with the former shapes occurring most frequently in lower elevation / gentler slope contexts and the latter being proportionally better represented in more elevated, steeper slope locations.

3.2.1 Paired enclosures.

A total of 48 enclosures and enclosure fragments are located within 50m of another site. These form 24 pairs, 67% of which are associated with other adjacent or paired enclosures. All are located in the eastern part of the study area, with 46% occurring in the south-east Quantocks and 38% in the central and eastern parts of the Vale of Taunton (Fig.66). None have been recorded from the Exmoor / Brendon uplands or the Blackdown Hills. A large majority (83%) have elevations of less than 150m.OD, with none being recorded above 215m.OD.

Typology.

Enclosure 1	Enclosure 2	No. of pairs	% of total
Curvilinear	Hybrid	1	6
Curvilinear	Rectilinear	3	18
Hybrid	Rectilinear	10	63
Rectilinear	Rectilinear	2	13
	Total pairs	**16**	**100**

Table 13. Enclosure pairings by type.

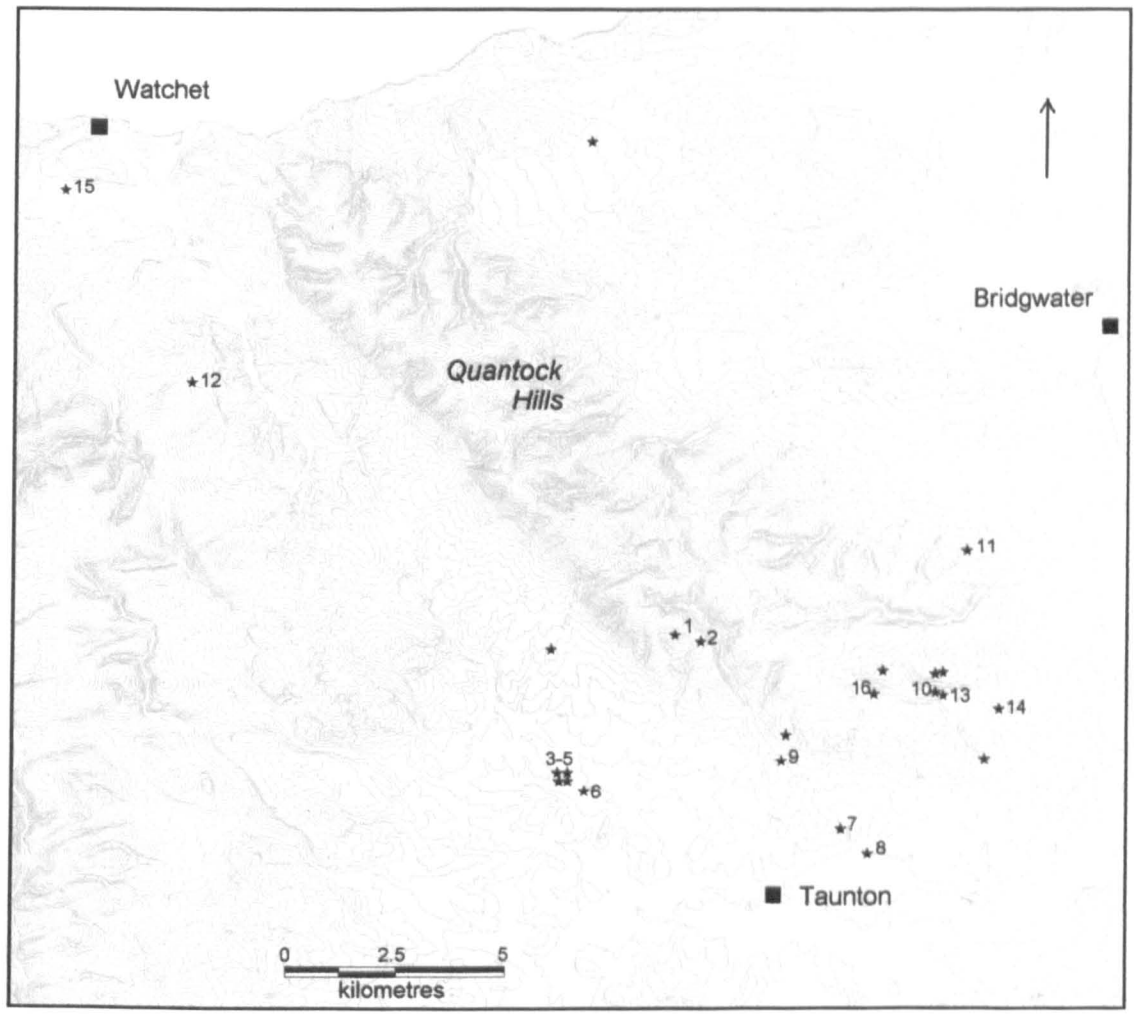


Fig. 66. *Map showing the distribution of enclosure pairs in the study area.*

(Site numbers shown on map correspond to numbered illustrations on Fig. 67.)

Of the 24 recorded pairs, only 16 are sufficiently complete for further analysis and these are illustrated on Fig.67. As is apparent from Table13, rectilinears and hybrids are the best represented types in this sample, occurring in 94% and 69% of pairings respectively. However curvilinears are relatively poorly represented and occur in only 24% of pairings. Of particular interest is the strong representation of pairings between hybrid and rectilinear types, which substantially outnumber the total for the other type combinations.

On the limited evidence available, it seems possible that the construction of enclosures in close proximity to each other may be a phenomenon associated mainly with rectilinear and hybrid enclosure shapes.

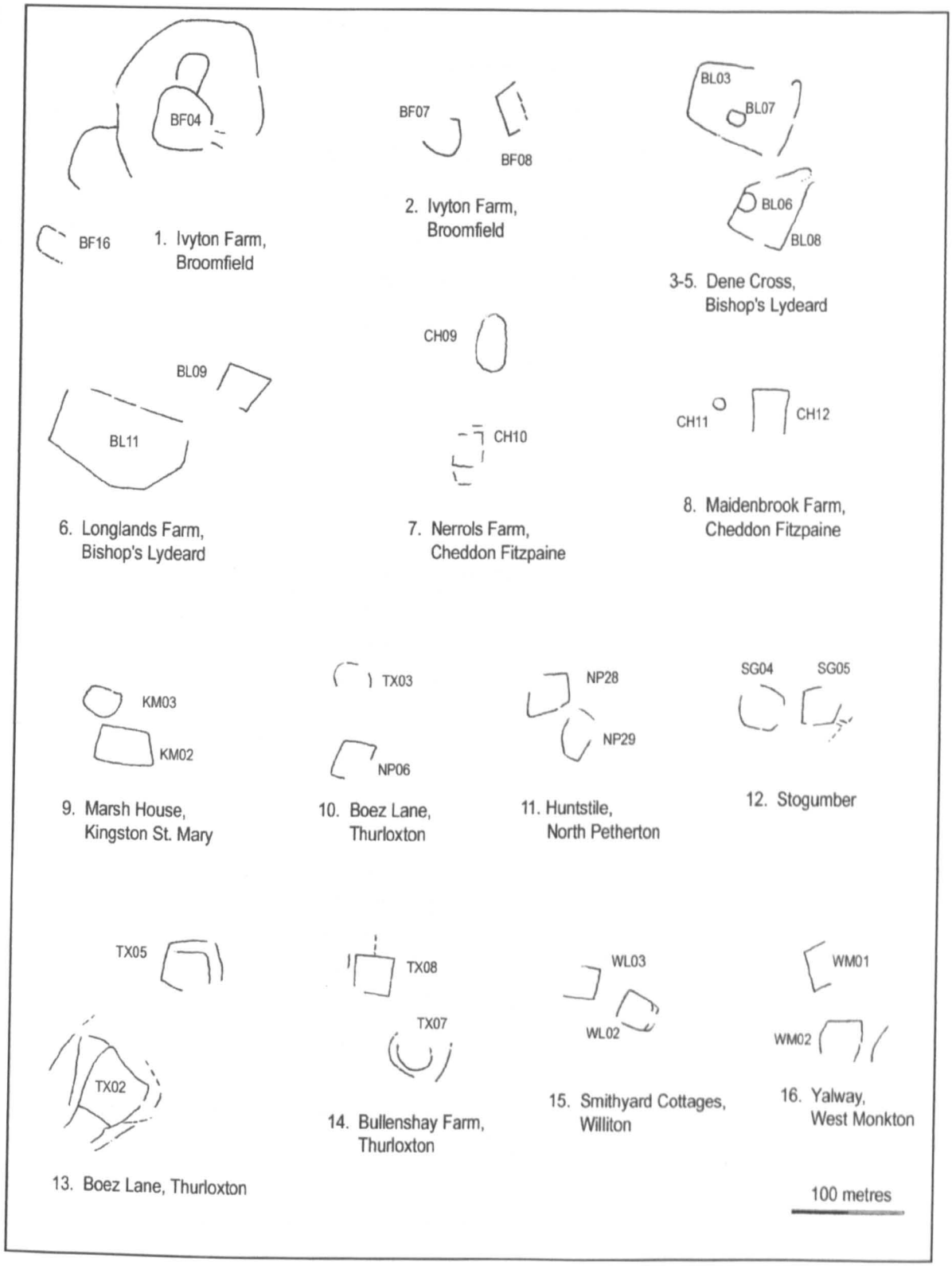


Fig. 67. *Class A and B enclosure pairs. Numbers correspond to sites shown on Fig.66.*

The enclosure shapes which occur within the 16 classifiable pairs are shown in Table 14 (below). This data shows that trapezoids are the best represented shape in this sample and, when combined with oblongs, form 45% of the total. Although only three D-shaped enclosures are present, these may be significant as they represent 15% of all sites of this shape.

The small proportion of curvilinear enclosures is very apparent, especially in the case of ovoids which are numerically the best represented shape in the study area. It may be significant that no typical ovoids are present, with the one recorded example (Nerrols Farm, CH09) being an elongated feature of borderline D-shape.

Type	Shape	No. of enclosures	% of total
Curvilinear	round	1	3%
	lobate	1	3%
	ovoid	1	3%
	partial	1	3%
	sub-total	**[4]**	**[12%]**
Hybrid	lobate	1	3%
	quadrangular	1	3%
	D-shaped	3	9%
	partial	5	16%
	sub-total	**[10]**	**[31%]**
Rectilinear	polygonal	1	3%
	oblong	4	13%
	trapezoid	10	32%
	partial	3	9%
	sub-total	**[18]**	**[57%]**
	TOTAL	**32**	**100%**

Table 14. *Enclosure shapes occurring within classifiable pairs.*

3.2.2 Enclosure clusters.

For the purposes of this study, these are defined as scatters of four or more enclosures with average densities of four sites per square kilometre or greater.

As is apparent from Fig.68, clusters are largely confined to the eastern part of the study area, with six examples being located to the east of the Quantocks and in the Vale of Taunton. These latter are sited on moderate to gentle sloping terrain at elevations below100m.OD. A further seven occupy steeper terrain on the lower slopes of the north-west Brendons and south-east Quantocks, with only two examples occurring on moderate to steep slopes at elevations exceeding 200m.OD. One of the latter (cluster 12) is sited at high elevation on the western fringe of Exmoor.

The clusters which have been identified vary considerably in terms of numbers of enclosures, distribution density and typology. However, most include both paired and adjacent enclosures in addition to less closely associated sites. In some cases, such as at Norton Fitzwarren hillfort (cluster 11) and to the south-east of Bishop's Lydeard (cluster 5), high densities of enclosures and other features suggest single settlement complexes which could have a long chronology. However, other more dispersed clusters may reflect less nucleated settlement groups or even dense scatters of small independent settlements.

Of the fifteen clusters, ten occur within areas selected for more detailed study and are discussed in Chapter 4. Section references for these are given in Table 15. As the remainder are also of importance to this study, each will be briefly described in this section.

Clusters 13 and 14 (Fig.69)

These are located on the lower eastern slopes of the Quantock Hills between Clavelshay and Thurloxton. Both clusters lie on palaeozoic Morte slates and are separated from each other by a narrow, steep-sided stream valley.

Cluster 13 comprises a linear scatter of fifteen enclosures which are ranged along a narrow, eastward sloping interfluve between Broomfield and Thurloxton. Dispersed over an area measuring 2.5km by 0.5km, these enclosures vary in elevation from 87m to 165m.OD. Most lie on moderate to gentle slopes on the crest of the interfluve, with nine examples occurring within 50 metres of a

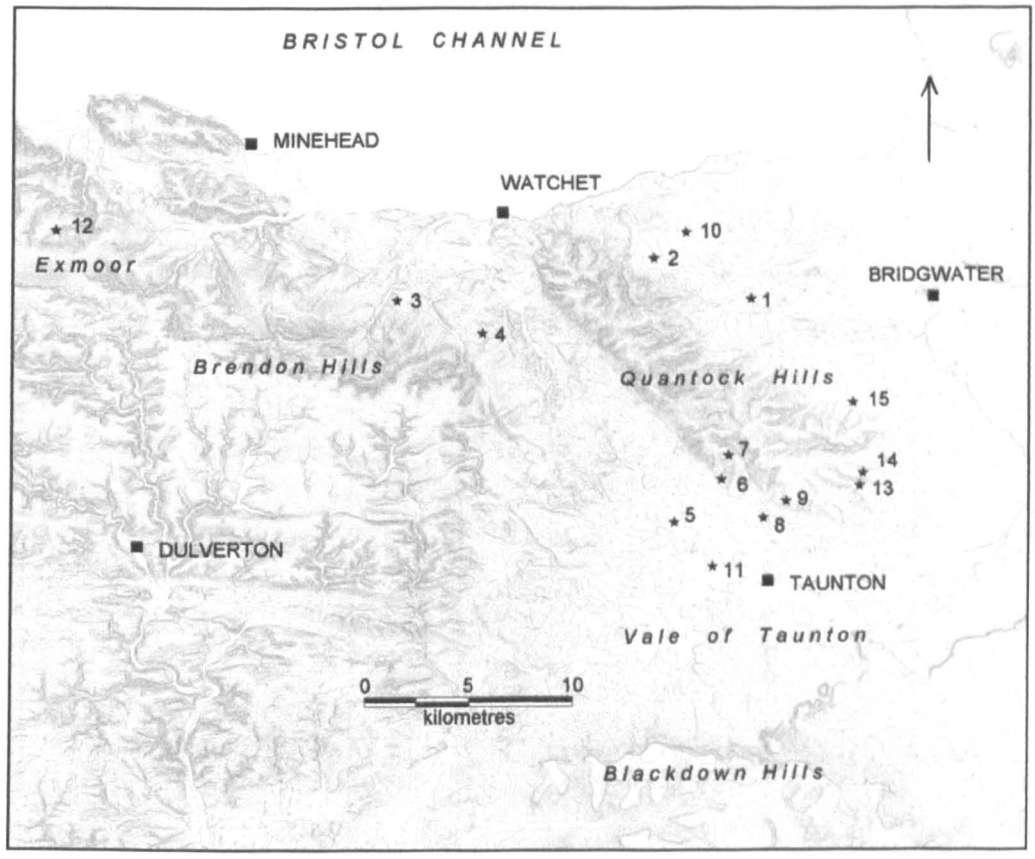


Fig.68 *Map showing the distribution of enclosure clusters in the study area.*

(A key to the numbered locations is provided in Table 15.)

present day road (Boez Lane). However, three examples (NP13, 14, 27) occur on steeper slopes below the crest of the interfluve. Of the twelve classifiable sites, five are rectilinear, five are hybrid and two are of curvilinear type.

Fig.71 shows the main focus of this cluster. The most significant site appears to be a hybrid lobate feature (TX02), which comprises a broad-ditched inner enclosure of c.0.24ha in area encircled by a series of probable annexes. This complex occupies a sub-dominant location and has clear views over the lowlands to the east of Thurloxton. It is paired with TX05, which is of trapezoidal shape and appears to have an inner compartment. The siting of this pair may be significant, as the enclosures lie on either side of the interfluve crest at the point where ridge-top lanes from Thurloxton and Creech St. Michael converge. This suggests that a contemporary ridge route may have passed between them, and also between a second pair (TX03, NP06) some 250m to the west. The close association of this group of seven enclosures suggests a high degree of

Map Key.	Location.	NGR [Gen.]	Area of spread.	Total sites.	Site Ref. Nos.	Elevation [m.OD]	Details
1	E. of Nether Stowey.	ST210400	1.0 x 1.5km.	6	NS01,02,03, 04, FD02,03	30-96	This section
2	Holford / Stringston.	ST170415	1.0 x 1.3km.	8	SN01,02,03, 04,06,07, HO03,06	82-100	4.1.2
3	S.W. of Washford.	ST040395	1.0 x 2.0km.	8	WY03,04, OC01,02,03, 06,07, NE07	87-127	This section
4	W. of Stogumber.	ST090375	1.0 x 2.0km	12	SG03,04,05, 07,08,11,12, 13,14,17,18, MS01	85-185	4.1.1
5	S.E. of Bishop's Lydeard.	ST180280	1.5 x 0.5km	11	BL02,03,04, 05,06,07,08, 09,10,11,14	43-52	4.3.1b
6	Yarford / Cushuish.	ST200305	0.75 x 0.4km	5	KM12.13,16, CT02,03	80-135	4.3.2b
7	Ivyton Fm., Broomfield.	ST205315	0.4 x 1.25km	7	BF03,04,07,0809, 15,16	180-245	4.3.2a
8	S. of Kingston St. Mary.	ST225285	1.0 x 1.8km	10	KM01,02,03, 04,05,06,09,14 CH02,05	45-67	4.3.3b
9	E. of Kingston St. Mary.	ST235295	1.0 x 0.75km	9	CH01,03,04, 08, KM07,08, 10,11,15	97-150	4.3.3a
10	Fairfield, Stogursey.	ST185428	0.3 x 0.8km	4	SN05,08,09, SY02	45-55	4.1.2
11	Norton Fitzwarren Hillfort.	ST196262	0.3 x 0.3km	4	NF01,02,03, 04	50-55	4.3.1a
12	S.W. of Luccombe.	SS887425	0.25 x 0.9km	4	LU03,05,06, 07	337-365	4.4.2
13	Boez Lane, Thurloxton.	ST255305	0.5 x 2.5km	15	NP02,06,13, 14,19,21,22,27 TX01,02,03, 04,05,06,09	87-165	This section
14	E. of Clavelshay.	ST265310	0.5 x 0.8km	9	NP03,04,05, 07,20,23,24, 25,26	115-134	This section
15	S.E. of Goathurst.	ST260335	0.5 x 1.5km	5	NP01,28,29, GO01,02	70-115	This section

Table 15. Data relating to enclosure clusters shown on Fig.68.. The numbers in the first column correspond to those shown on the map.

inter-relationship, with TX02 possibly being the dominant site for at least part of the period of occupation.

In terms of the cluster as a whole, there appears to be a clear association with a potential ridge route leading from the lowlands to the main Quantock ridge at Broomfield. This might suggest that all of the enclosures belonged to a single

dispersed economic unit. However, given the number of sites present, it seems unlikely that all were in use at the same time.

Lying to the east of Clavelshay Farm, cluster 14 contains nine enclosures dispersed over an area measuring 0.5km by 0.8km (Fig.69). These range in elevation from 115-134m.OD and are all located on moderate to gentle slopes.

As shown on Fig.72, the southern part of this cluster consists of a dense scatter of seven enclosures and fragmentary enclosures spread over an area of c.12ha. All sites have east to south-easterly aspects and appear to be small, with the largest having an internal area of c.0.16ha. This scatter shows an interesting typological distribution, with the less elevated eastern part containing rectilinear and fragmentary rectilinear features and the higher western part a quadrangular enclosure and two probable hybrid or curvilinear fragments. On the assumption that enclosure shapes may be of chronological significance, this might suggest the expansion or relocation of components of a small settlement complex over distances of no more than 300m.

Cluster 3 (Fig.70)

This cluster is located to the south-west of Washford and lies on the lower slopes of the Brendon Hills overlooking the coastal lowlands. It consists of eight sites, which are dispersed over an area of 2 square kilometres and range in elevation from 87-127m.OD.

Within this cluster, one group of three adjacent enclosures is of some interest (Fig.73). Consisting of an ovoid (OC07), a trapezoid (WY04) and a quadrant-shaped enclosure (OC01), these occupy moderate or gentle sloping locations with a north-easterly aspect. It seems possible that this group represents a single economic unit which has undergone either expansion or the relocation of settlement sites over a period of time. Air photographs show fragmentary field boundaries to the east of OC01 and south-west of WY04.

Elsewhere within this cluster the enclosures are more dispersed and could represent independent economic units. In the case of OC03, a quadrangular enclosure appears to have an attached linear feature, possibly an annex, and vague traces of a possible field system. Two examples (NE07, OC02) are sited on steep slopes overlooking the valley of the Washford River. Both occupy

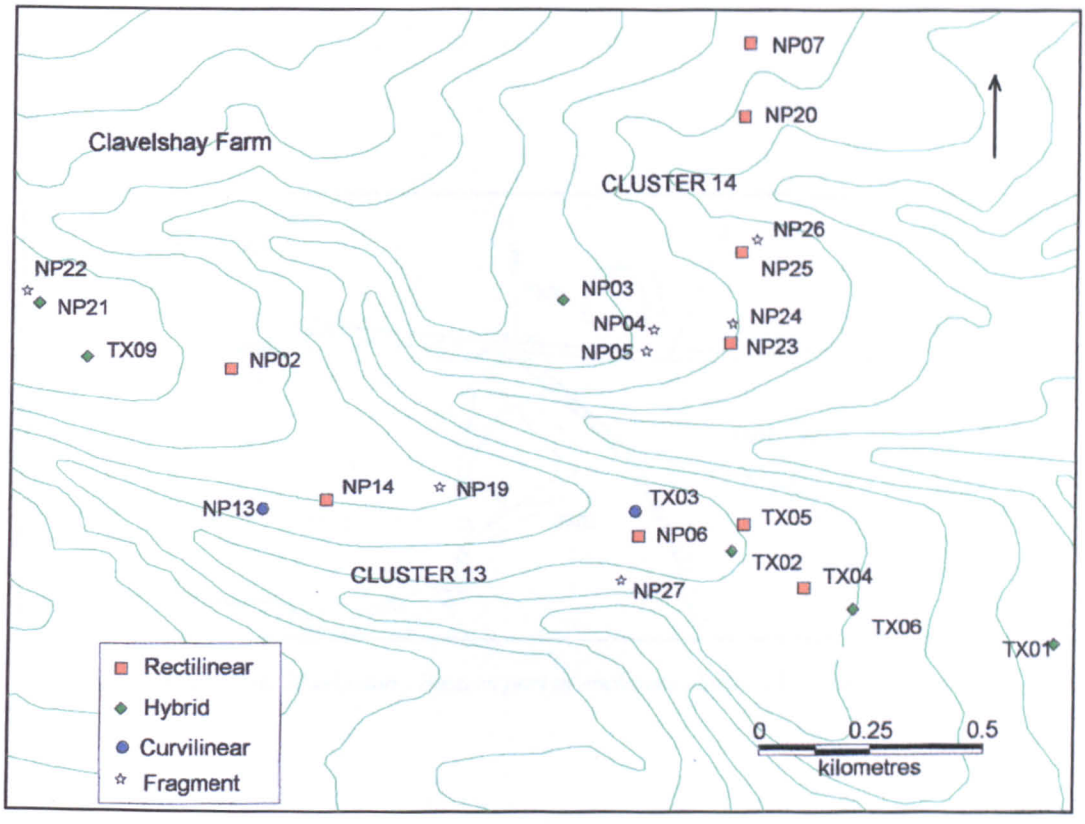


Fig. 69. Map showing enclosure clusters 13 and 14, located between Clavelshay and Thurloxton.

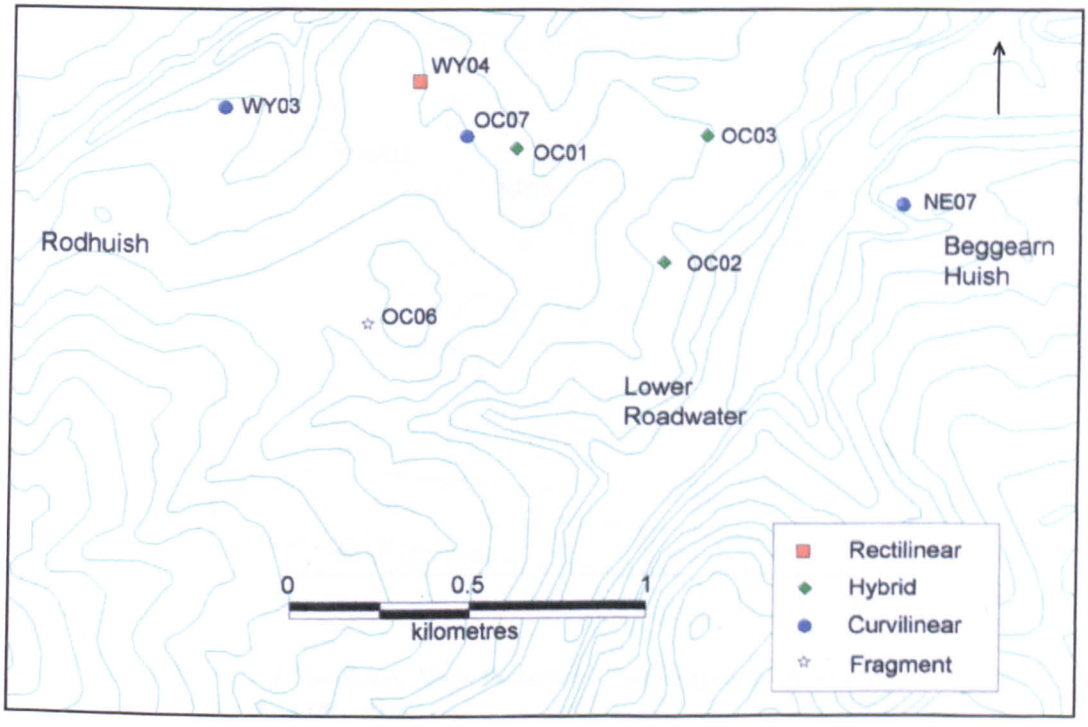


Fig. 70 Map showing enclosure cluster 3, located to the south-west of Washford.

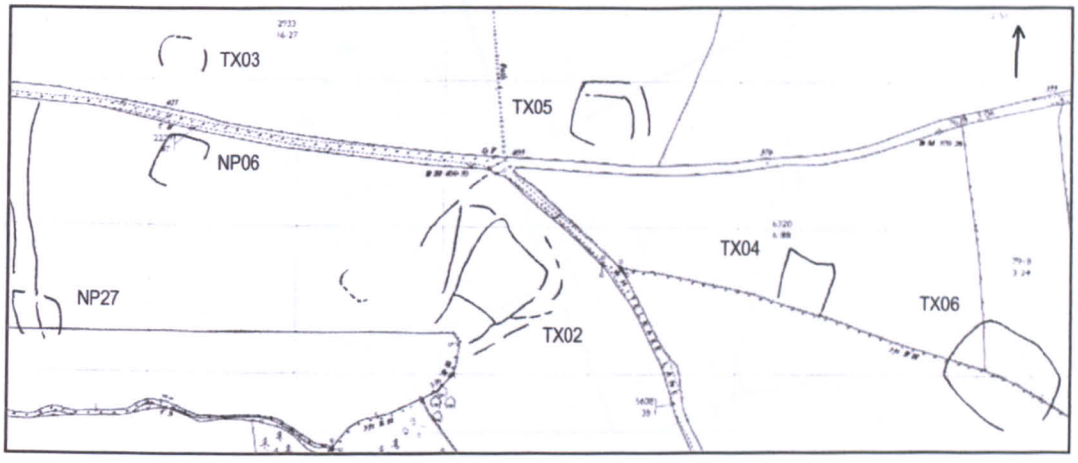


Fig. 71. Boez Lane, Thurloxton : Eastern part of enclosure cluster 13. Scale: 1cm : 50m.

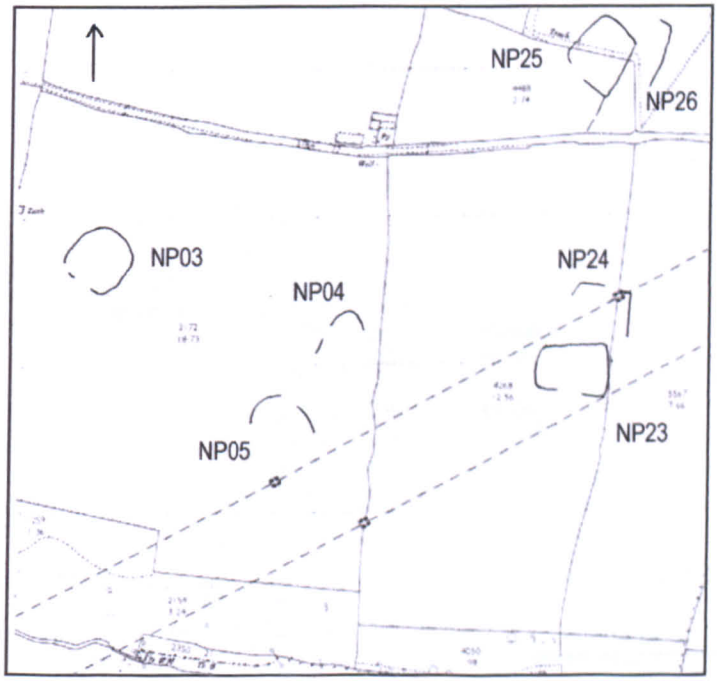


Fig. 72. *East of Clavelshay, North Petherton : Southern part of enclosure cluster 14. Scale: 1 cm : 50 m.*

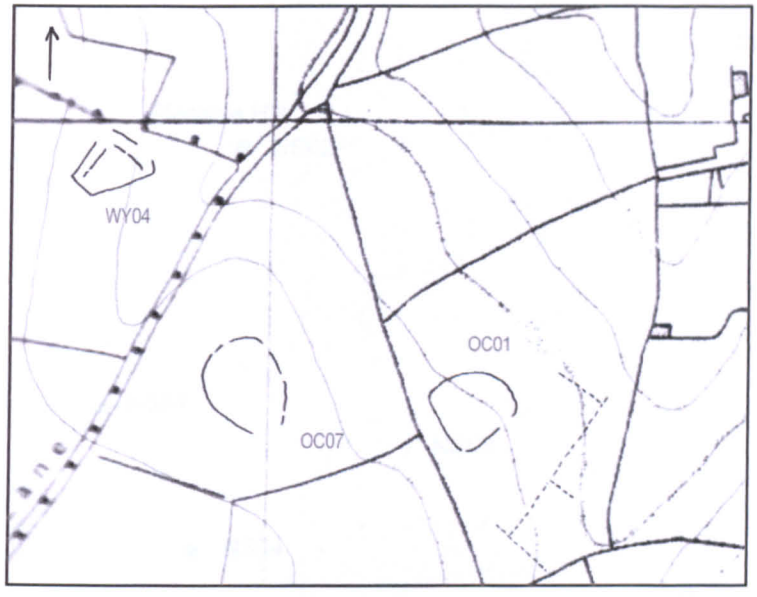


Fig.73 Lodge Farm, Roadwater : Part of enclosure cluster 3. Scale : 1cm : 50m.

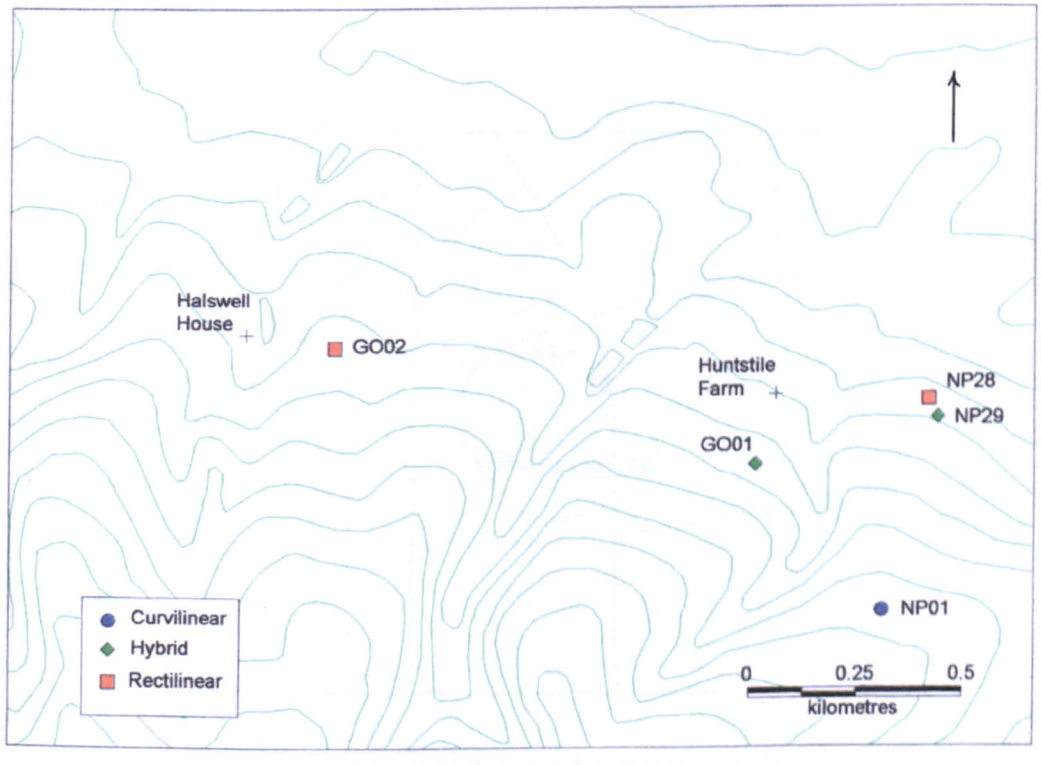


Fig. 74 Map showing enclosure cluster15, located to the south-east of Goathurst.

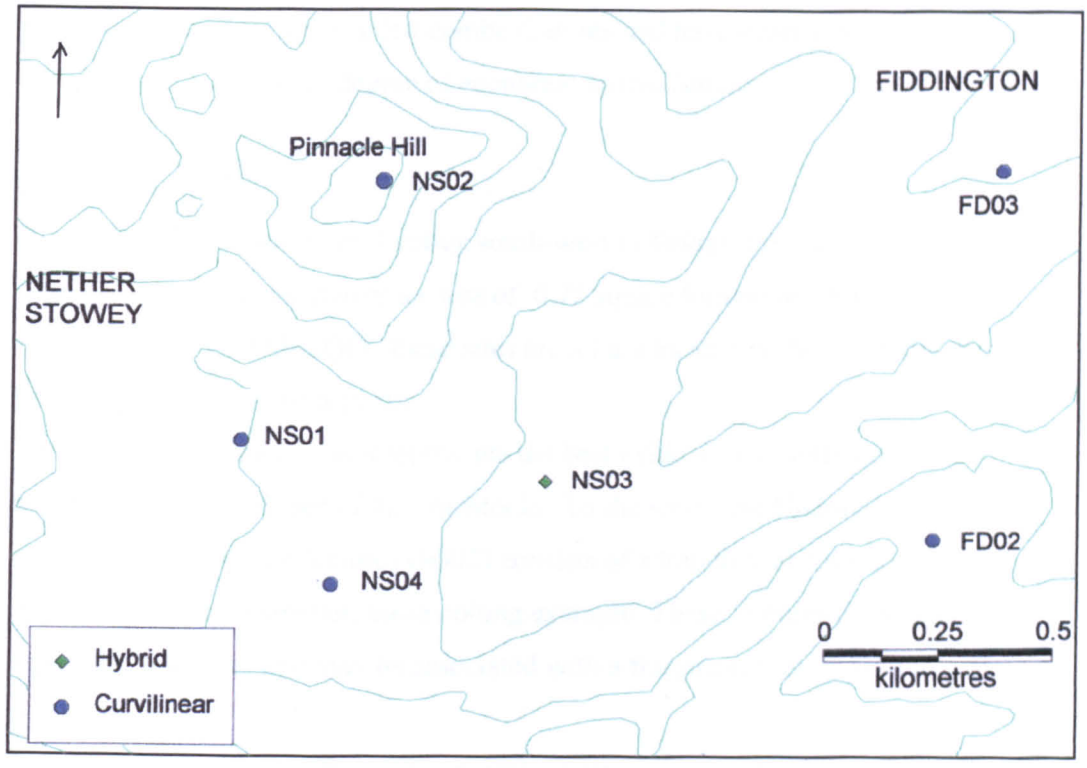


Fig.75 *Map showing enclosure cluster 1, located to the east of Nether Stowey.*

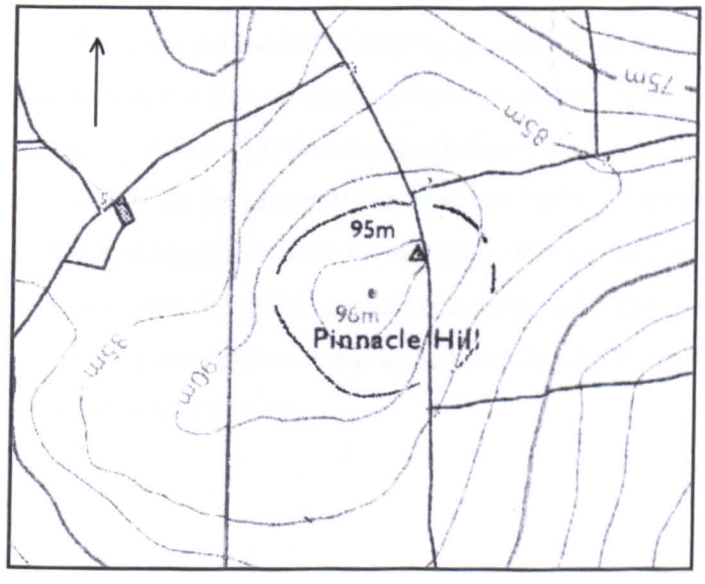


Fig.76 *Enclosure NS02: original Airphoto transcription at a scale of 1 : 5000 (1cm : 50m.).*

positions adjacent to steep-sided combe features and have nearby water supplies, which may suggest some degree of economic specialisation.

Cluster 15 (Fig.74)

Overlooking the lower Parrett valley south-west of Bridgwater, this consists of five enclosures dispersed over an area of 0.75 square kilometres. Ranging in elevation from 70-115m.OD., these sites are all are located on Morte slates and have north to north-east aspects.

This cluster is of interest as it represents the best evidence for settlement on the north-facing lower slopes of the Quantocks. To the west near Halswell House, Goathurst, a polygonal feature (GO02) consists of a trapezoidal enclosure which appears to overlie a smaller, more oblong example. These features lie adjacent to a possible trackway and may be associated with a fragmentary field system (Fig.77b).

About one kilometre to the east, a quadrangular enclosure (GO01) with an area of c.0.37ha lies on a steep slope adjacent to a small stream valley. On the opposite side of the valley about 400m to the south-east, NP01 comprises a small ovoid enclosure which is superimposed on another similar example. This site, which overlooks GO01, lies on moderate sloping ground and is also close to the stream. Further downslope, a pair of small enclosures consisting of a trapezoid (NP28) and a partial hybrid (NP29) lie on a steep slope adjacent to the valley and within 450m of GO01. Both the proximity and the similarities in location of these enclosures suggest a possible inter-relationship, with the largest (GO01) perhaps being the dominant site within a small economic unit. The occurrence of both paired and superimposed enclosures may suggest that these sites remained in use for a substantial period of time.

Cluster 1 (Fig.75)

Lying to the east of the Quantock Hills between Nether Stowey and Fiddington, this group of six enclosures is sited on Mercia mudstone and dispersed over c.2.0 square kilometres. The dominant feature is a large cropmark located on the summit of Pinnacle Hill, Nether Stowey (NS02). Air photographic evidence

suggests that this is probably a ploughed out hillfort, with a substantial single ditch encircling the hilltop (96m.OD) and enclosing about 1.45ha (Fig.76).

The other five enclosures are all located in a broad sheltered valley which lies to the south and east of Pinnacle Hill. These all occur within 1.5km of NS02 and are sited on gentle north to east facing slopes with an elevation range of 30-67m.OD. Consisting of two ovoids (NS01, FD02), one D-shaped enclosure (NS03) and two partial curvilinear sites (NS04, FD03), all would have been clearly visible from the eastern side of NS02. On the evidence currently available, it seems feasible that they could represent part of a dispersed pattern of single farmsteads lying in close proximity to a small hillfort. It may be significant that no rectilinear enclosures have been recorded from this cluster, as this is the most frequently occurring type in the area to the north of Nether Stowey (4.1.2).

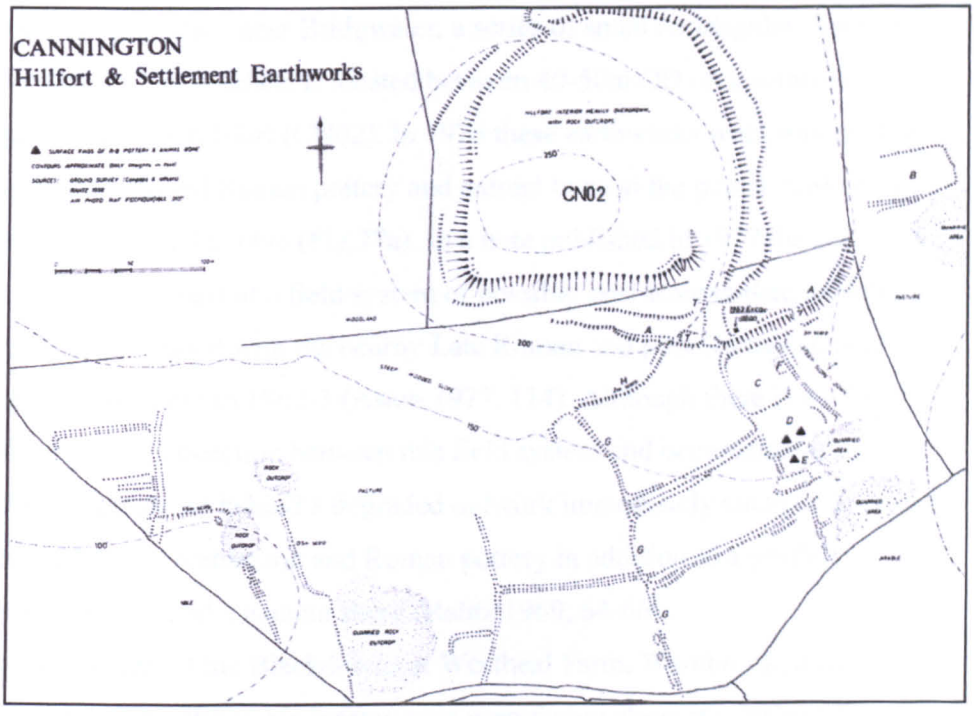
3.3 The occurrence of field systems in association with enclosures.

Adjacent linear features which could indicate contemporary field boundaries have been recorded for less than 10% of all enclosures on the database. However, it seems possible that this surprisingly low proportion may be as much due to air photograph quality and clarity of cropmarking on non-calcareous soils as to a genuine absence of evidence.

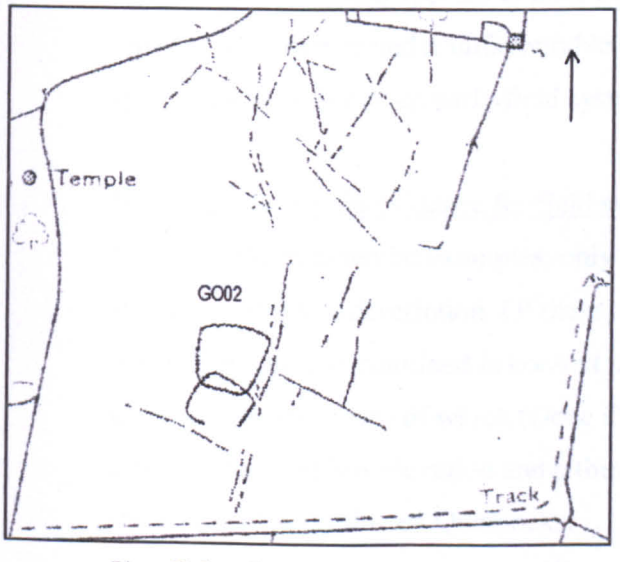
In total, five extant and eighteen cropmark enclosures have produced evidence for a potentially related field system. A further eleven cropmark enclosures show vague linear marks which might also indicate field boundaries, but these are too inconclusive to be considered here. These sites occur at all elevations and are dispersed across the study area, although none have been identified from central Exmoor, the central or southern Brendons and the northern Quantock uplands.

a) Extant enclosures with adjacent field systems.

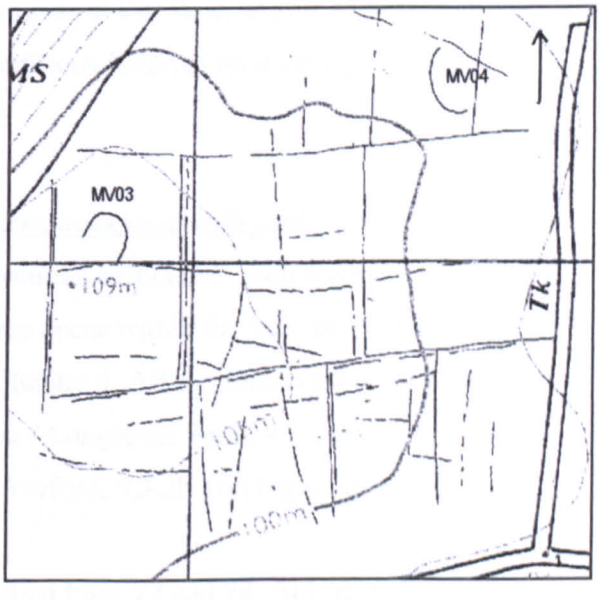
Of these, three occur within the Exmoor sub-region and are considered in some detail in 4.4.3. Two examples (CU02, 03) lie at over 350m.OD on a sheltered, south facing slope beneath Dunkery Hill. The third (WY05), which lies at lower



A) South of Cannington Camp. From Burrow 1976.



B) Halswell House, Goathurst.



C) North-west of Preston Bowyer.

Fig.77 *Fragmentary field systems potentially associated with enclosures. (1 : 5000)*

elevation on the south side of Withycombe Hill, occurs within a field system which extends westwards towards the hillfort at Bat's Castle (CA01).

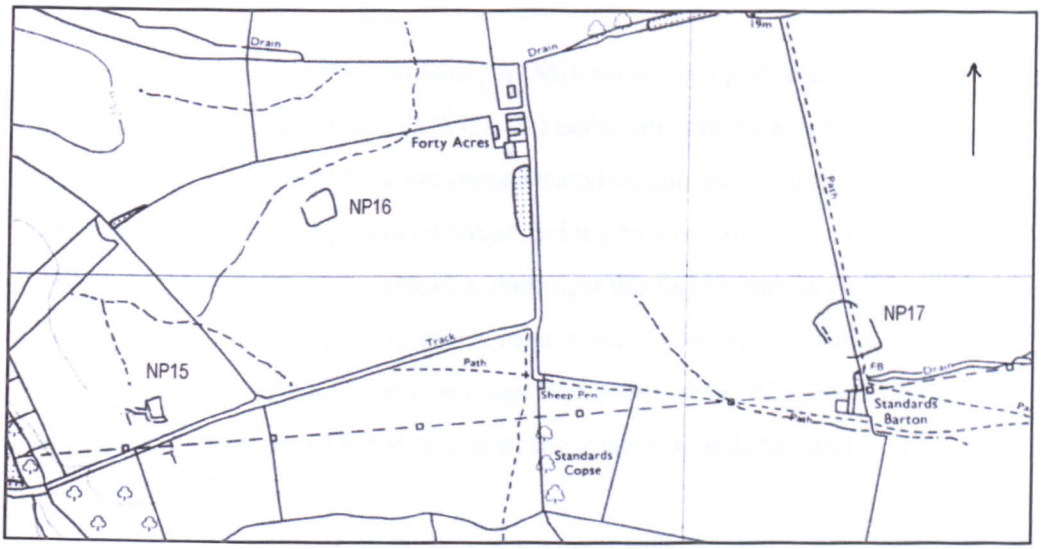
At Cannington Park near Bridgwater, a series of small rectangular fields defined by low banks and lynchets is located between 40-50m.OD on a south-facing slope beneath the hillfort (CN02). In 1976 these earthworks were surveyed by Burrow, who found Roman pottery and animal bone at the points marked by black triangles on his plan (Fig.77a). In a note published in 1977, he considered that they formed part of a field system of possible post-Roman date, which may have been associated with the nearby Late Roman and post-Roman cemetery excavated by Rahtz in 1962-3 (Aston 1977, 114). Although there is no direct evidence for a connection between this field system and occupation of the hillfort, excavations behind a degraded outwork immediately south of the main entrance located prehistoric and Roman pottery in addition to a posthole containing daub and a Roman sherd (Rahtz 1969, 64-66).

At the east end of the Blackdowns at Wortheal Farm, Wambrook, a partially extant enclosure (WK01) is located on a west facing slope at c.200m.OD. Discovered in 1974, this site was observed to be adjacent to a series of degraded banks and lynchets defining small sub-angular fields (HER No. 53224). Unfortunately no plan appears to have been made at that time, and an attempted survey by the writer under unfavourable conditions failed to produce a pattern of lynchets suggestive of an early field system.

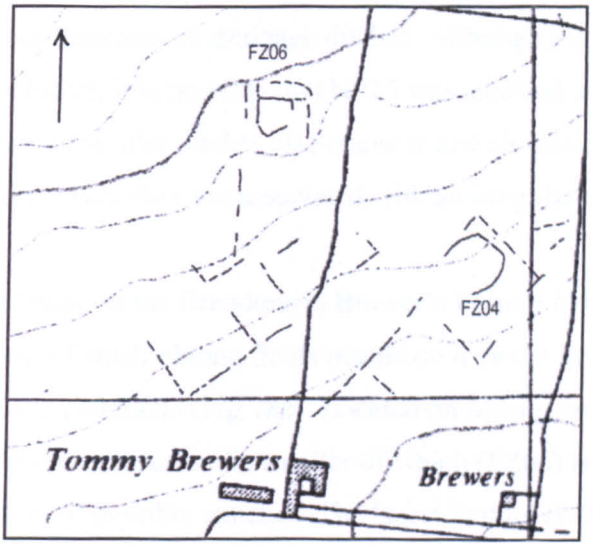
b) Air photographic evidence for field systems associated with enclosures.

Of the eighteen potential examples, only seven are sufficiently well recorded to warrant individual description. Of these, three occur within the Vale of Taunton sub-region and are examined in context in Chapter 4. All are associated with enclosure clusters, two of which (Dene Cross / Longlands Farm, 4.3.1b) lie on gravel spreads at low elevation and a third (Yarford, 4.3.2b) on higher ground on the edge of the south-east Quantocks.

The remaining four examples are illustrated on Figs. 77 and 78. At Halswell House, Goathurst, a complex of fragmentary linear cropmarks with a north-east aspect lies c.150m downslope of site GO02 (Fig.77b). Some of these lie on a similar axis to linear features immediately adjacent to the enclosures and seem likely to have formed part of a system of small rectilinear fields. However,



D) East of Impen's Farm, North Petherton. Scale : 1 : 10,000.



E) North of Brewer's Farm, Fitzhead. Scale : 1 : 5000.

Fig.78 *Fragmentary field systems potentially associated with enclosures.*

other marks with a different orientation suggest that another system of fields may also have existed in this area.

To the north-west of Preston Bowyer, Milverton, two partial enclosures showing curvilinear features (MV03, 04) occur on gentle east-facing slopes at c.100m.OD (Fig.77c). These are incorporated within a complex system of linear cropmarks, the most apparent of which belong to a recently removed series of oblong-shaped fields and paddocks. Amongst the fainter marks visible, many appear to have formed part of an irregular system of small rectilinear fields, which is most clearly defined to the east and south of MV03. This latter site appears to have been attached to one of these field boundaries and may be a D-shaped enclosure.

At Impen's Farm, North Petherton, a group of three enclosures lie on a gently sloping gravel plateau at c.20m.OD (Fig.78d). Having south-easterly aspects, these comprise a small rectilinear 'banjo' enclosure (NP15), a small trapezoid (NP16) and a medium sized hybrid enclosure of quadrangular shape (NP17). All are adjacent to sinuous ditch features which appear to have formed part of an extensive system of boundary or drainage ditches. Although the air photograph images are inconclusive, it is possible that NP15 was attached to one of these. Probable fragments of similar ditches also occur at low elevation to the south-east of Cannington, where they are associated with an irregular trapezoidal enclosure (CN04).

On the southern fringe of the Brendons at Brewer's Farm, Fitzhead, a fragmentary system of small oblong fields occurs on a moderate to steep south-east facing slope at c.140m.OD (Fig.78e). Located on Morte slates, this system may be related to two enclosures, the smaller of which (FZ06) is a small trapezoid with traces of possible annexes. The larger feature (FZ04), which could be a D-shaped enclosure, appears to have been incorporated within one of the fields, suggesting that it might antedate the visible field pattern.

3.4 The definition and distribution of selected enclosure groups.

During the processing of the data presented in this chapter, it became apparent that a significant proportion of enclosures could be grouped on the basis of common attributes. In some instances, groups could be defined largely in terms of context using such attributes as slope, proximity to water and position in the landscape. Others, however, could be identified mainly in terms of typological attributes such as size and shape, although context was also taken into account in these cases.

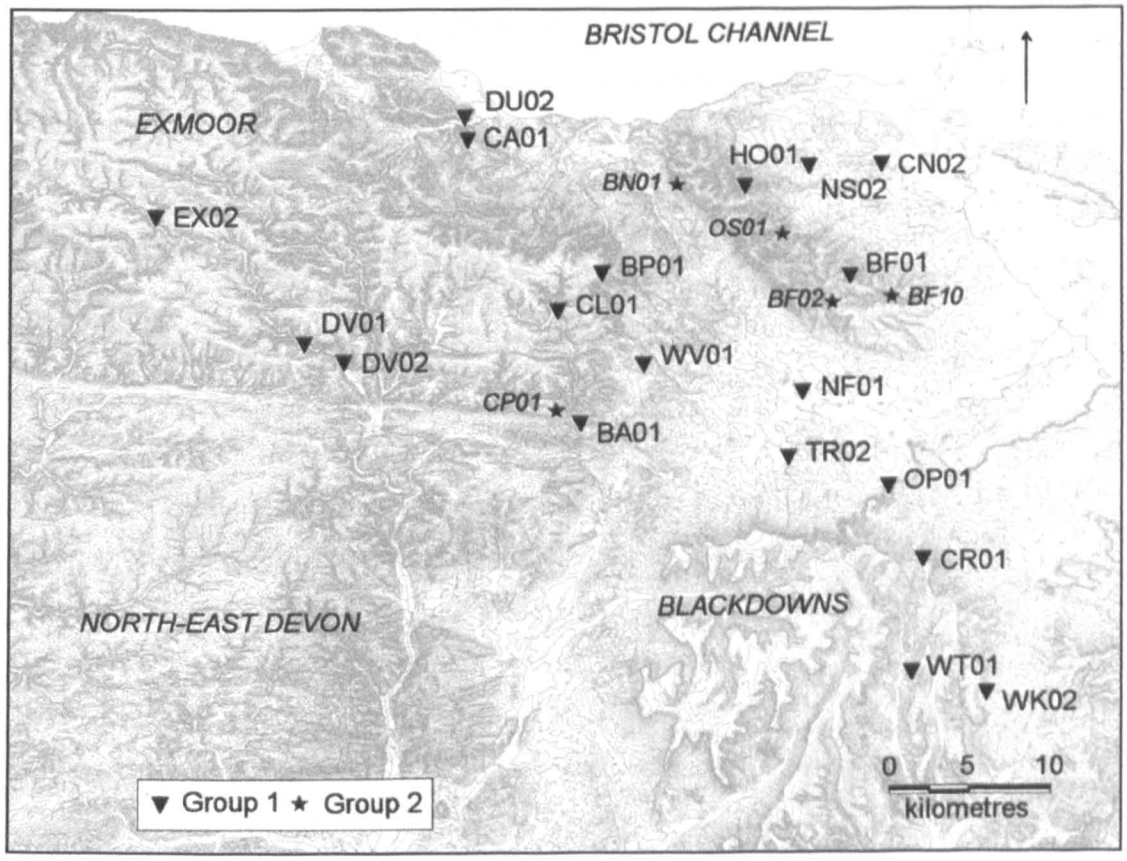
For the purposes of this study, five groups are defined and examined in this section. Containing a total of 95 enclosures, these are considered to have potential economic and /or social implications and will be used in the interpretation and discussion of settlement patterns across the study area. All larger enclosures classifiable as hillforts have been placed together in Group 1. Groups 2, 3 and 4 encompass a large proportion of those medium and small enclosures which are commonly referred to as 'hill-slope enclosures'. A fifth group contains all those sites with internal areas greater than 0.5ha. which are not included in Groups 1 and 2 and have not been identified as Roman military works.

3.4.1 Group 1 enclosures.

This group contains nineteen sites, all of which enclose more than 1.0 hectares and, on morphological grounds, are classifiable as hillforts. The overall distribution of these enclosures is shown on Fig.79, with illustrations in the form of simplified schematic plans being provided on Figs.80 and 81.

General distribution.

As shown on Fig.79, the majority of Group 1 enclosures are located to the south and east of the Brendon Hills. These form an irregular scatter of sites across the Vale of Taunton, the Quantock Hills and the lower Parrett valley, with a further two examples being located on the eastern side of the Blackdowns. In the western part of the study area, most sites occur around the periphery of the main uplands, with only one example being located in the central parts of the Exmoor / Brendon massif.



GROUP 1 : **BA01**; The Castles, Bathealton. **BF01**; Ruborough Camp, Broomfield. **BP01**; Elworthy Barrows, Brompton Ralph. **CA01**; Bat's Castle, Dunster **CL01**; Clatworthy Camp. **CN02**; Cannington Camp. **CR01**; Castle Neroche, Curland. **DU02**; Grabbist Hill, Dunster. **DV01**; Mounsey Castle, Dulverton. **DV02**; Oldberry Castle, Dulverton. **EX02**; Cow Castle, Exmoor. **HO01**; Dowsborough Camp, Holford. **NF01**; Norton Fitzwarren Camp. **NS02**; Pinnacle Hill, Nether Stowey. **OP01**; Orchard Wood, Orchard Portman. **TR02**; Castleman's Hill, Trull. **WK02**; Bounds Lane, Wambrook. **WT01**; Horse Pool Camp, Whitestaunton. **WV01**; King's Castle, Wiveliscombe.

GROUP 2 : **BF02**; Higher Castles, Broomfield. **BF10**; Rook's Castle, Broomfield. **BN01**; Trendle Ring, Bicknoller. **CP01**; Woodworthy Farm, Chipstable. **OS01**; Plainsfield Camp, Over Stowey.

Fig. 79 . The distribution of Group 1 and Group 2 enclosures.

Location and typology of individual sites.

The main features of each hillfort are briefly described below. Unless other sources are quoted, the archaeological data is derived from unpublished field reports and scheduling documents held on file in the Somerset Historic Environment Record (HER). This has been confirmed and, in some cases, supplemented by observations made during site visits by the writer. National Grid References and Somerset HER file numbers for each site are contained in Appendix 1.

BA01; The Castles, Bathealton.

Located at 225m.OD on a hill-crown overlooking the upper Tone valley. Ovoid in shape with an area of 1.6ha, it is mainly delineated by a single scarp and ditch. However, it has outer scarped slope on the north-west side and a bank and in-turned entrance at its eastern end. (Detail: 4.2.1)

BF01; Ruborough Camp, Broomfield.

Located at 200m.OD on a steep promontory overlooking the lower Parrett valley. Of triangular shape, it encloses 1.8ha and is defined mainly by a large scarp and ditch with a large bank on the upslope side. There appear to have been two entrances, one of which is in-turned and has a clubbed rampart terminal. An adjacent linear outwork may represent part of an unfinished outer enclosure.

BP01; Elworthy Barrows, Brompton Ralph.

An unfinished hillfort located at 392m.OD on a hill-crown overlooking the western Vale of Taunton. Enclosing c.3.0ha, it was probably intended as a single-ditched enclosure with a possible in-turned entrance on its eastern side. Described in Jesson and Hill 1971, 25-7.

CA01; Bat's Castle, Dunster.

Located at 210m.OD on the crest of a ridge overlooking the coast and the entrance to the Avill valley. Of ovoid shape, it encloses 1.35ha and is defined by a single large bank and ditch with a substantial outer bank. It has two entrances, the eastern one having in-turned terminals and a long corridor approach formed by the outer bank. There are two adjacent linear outworks. (Detail: 4.4.1)

CL01; Clatworthy Camp.

Sited on a promontory overlooking the upper Tone valley at 293m.OD. Enclosing 5.7ha, it is of sub-triangular shape and defined mainly by a single bank and ditch, with a substantial scarp along its southern side. Of the two probable entrances one appears to have been in-turned.

CN02; Cannington Camp.

Located at c.80m.OD on an isolated hill-top overlooking the Parrett estuary. Of D-shaped form, it encloses 2.6ha and is defined mainly by a scarp and traces of collapsed dry stone walling. A smaller discontinuous scarp appears to represent an outer perimeter line. There are two possible entrances, the southern one being an oblique passageway formed by an in-turned rampart terminal. An outwork lies just south of the main entrance (3.3a).

CR01; Castle Neroche, Curland.

Located at 270m.OD on the crest of the Blackdown escarpment overlooking the eastern Vale of Taunton. Badly damaged by a medieval motte and bailey castle and by later sand quarrying, it appears to have comprised a large, double-ditched cross-dyke enclosing at least 3.5ha of a narrow, steep-sided promontory. A third bank and ditch appears to represent an outer enclosure. Recently re-surveyed by English Heritage (Newman 2003).

DU02; Grabbist Hill, Dunster.

Sited on a promontory overlooking the entrance to the Avill valley at 180m.OD. Enclosing c.1.7ha, it is bounded on the south side by a steep natural scarp and elsewhere by an artificial scarp with traces of bank and ditch. A clear entrance gap flanked by an outer bank or counterscarp occurs at the western end. (Detail: 4.4.1)

DV01; Mounsey Castle, Dulverton.

Enclosing 1.95ha, this is sited on a ridge summit overlooking the Barle valley at 230m.OD. Of irregular ovoid shape, it is defined mainly by a substantial scarp, which is surmounted by a bank on the southern side. There are two entrances, the southern one having an in-turned rampart terminal creating an oblique passageway. A length of dry stone revetment is visible adjacent to this. There is a short linear outwork c.100m to the north of the site, which was recently re-surveyed by the RCHME (Riley 1999).

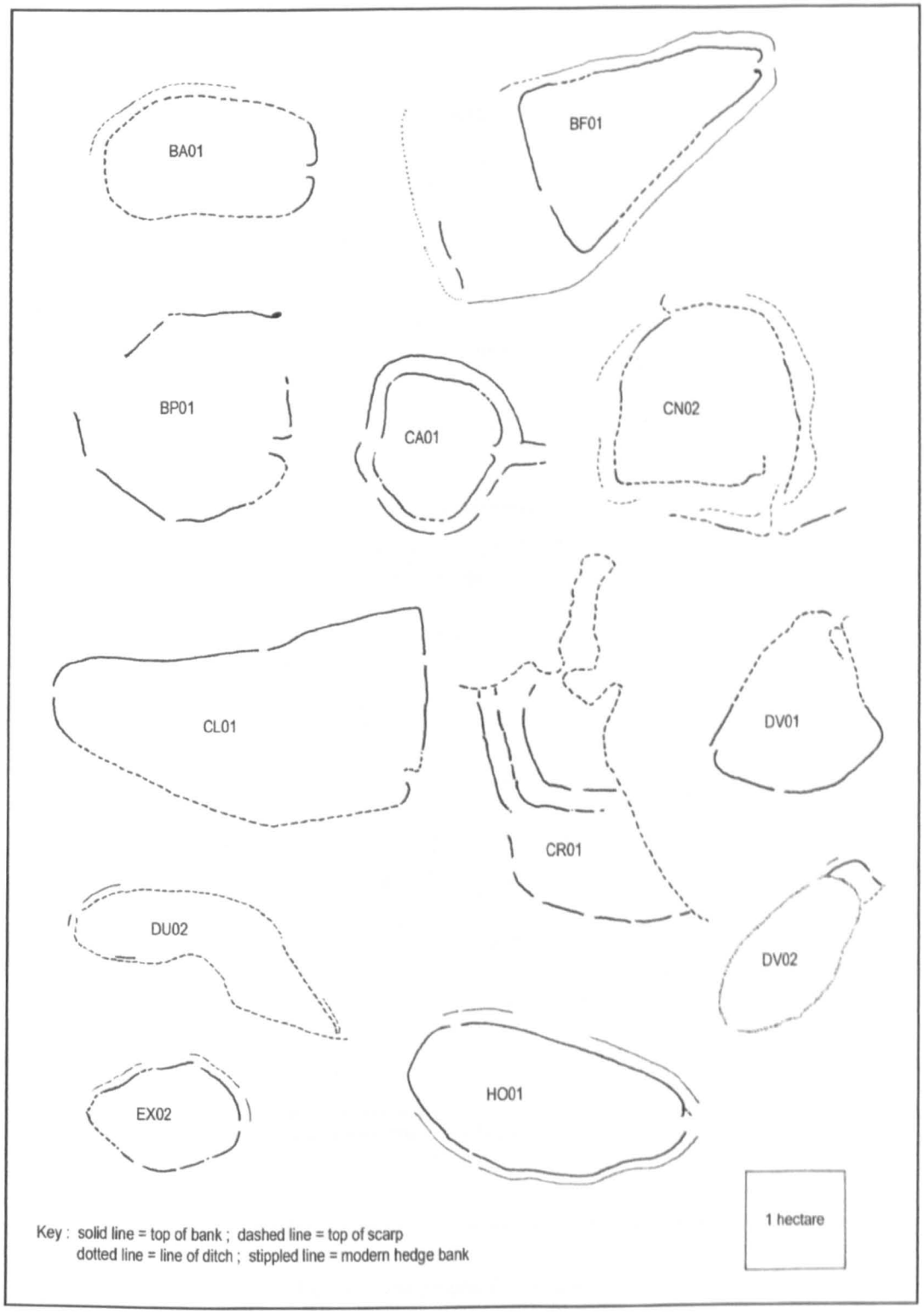


Fig.80 *Group 1 enclosures.*

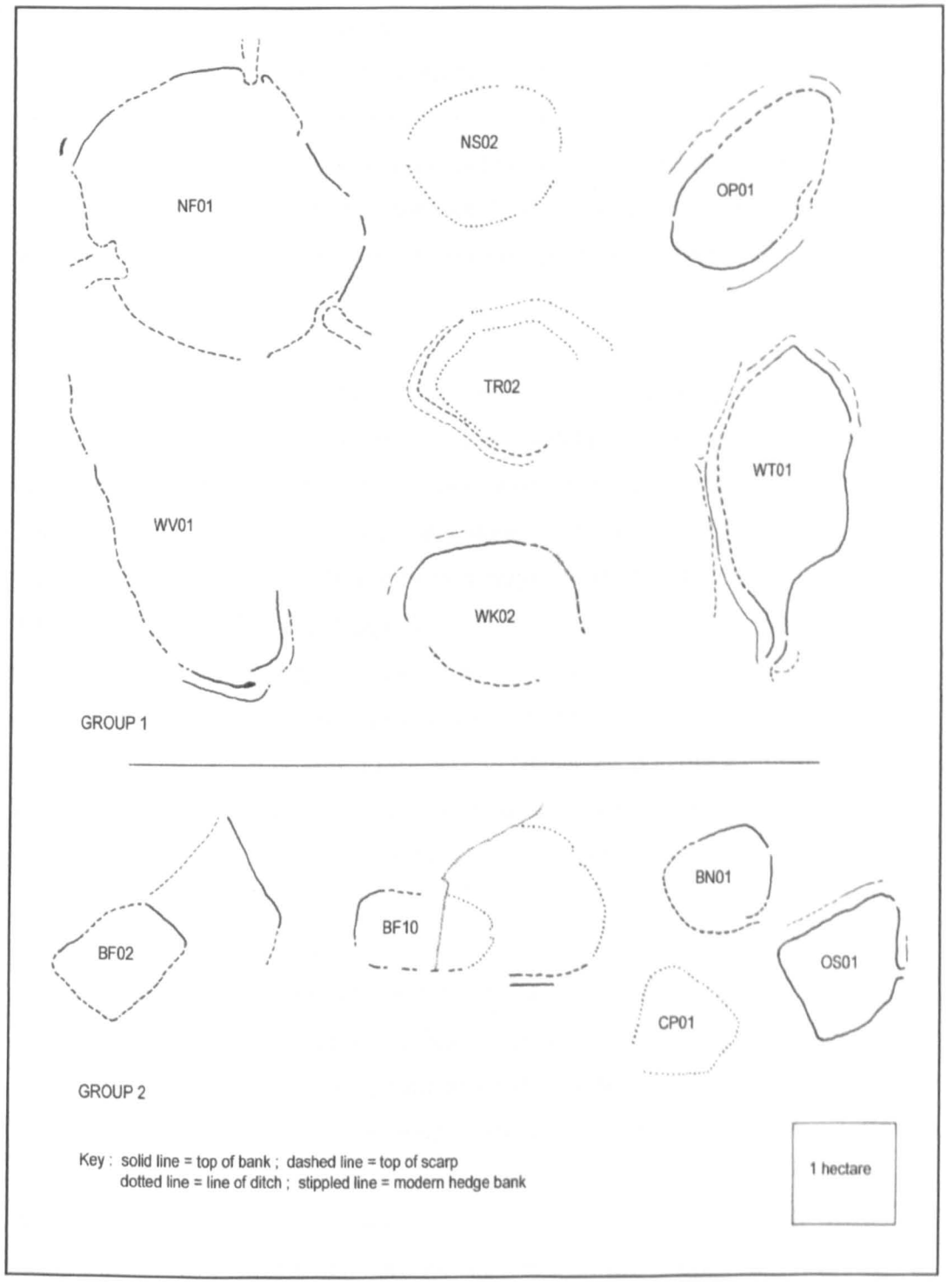


Fig.81 *Group 1 and 2 enclosures.*

DV02; Oldberry Castle, Dulverton.

A badly damaged site located on a promontory overlooking the Barle valley at 240m.OD. Of elongated ovoid form, it encloses c.1.4ha and is defined mainly by modern field banks with traces of scarp and ditch. Remains of a substantial rampart occur at the north-eastern end, but the location of the original entrance or entrances is uncertain. Recently re-surveyed by the RCHME (Wilson-North 1997).

EX02; Cow Castle, Exmoor.

Located at 330m.OD on an hillock rising above the floor of the upper Barle valley. Of ovoid shape, it encloses c.1.2ha and is defined by a single bank and scarp with an external ditch or berm. There appear to have been two original entrance gaps, with clear evidence of dry stone revetment occurring in the vicinity of the southern one. Recently re-surveyed by the RCHME (Riley 1997).

HO01; Dowsborough Camp, Holford.

Overlooking Bridgwater Bay and the lower Parrett valley, this is sited on a hill top at 339m.OD. Of ovoid shape, it encloses c.2.75ha and is defined by a substantial bank and ditch with a pronounced counterscarp in places. Two circular features are located immediately inside the single original entrance gap. A large linear ditch occurs c.1km to the south. Recently re-surveyed by English Heritage (Riley 2002). (Detail: 4.1.3).

NF01; Norton Fitzwarren Camp.

A badly damaged site located at 55m.OD on a hill top overlooking the central Vale of Taunton. Of irregular round shape, it encloses 5.3ha and consists of a single bank and ditch with a large scarp along the southern edge. It is approached by three hollow ways, but it is uncertain which of these represent original entrances. (Detail: 4.3.1a)

NS02; Pinnacle Hill, Nether Stowey.

Located on a hill summit at 96m.OD overlooking the lower Parrett valley. Known only as a cropmark, it is defined by a single ditch enclosing c.1.45ha, with a probable entrance gap on the western side. (Detail: 3.2.2)

OP01; Orchard Wood, Orchard Portman.

Overlooking the southern Vale of Taunton, this is located at 116m.OD on a promontory below an isolated hill top. Of ovoid shape, it encloses 1.75ha and is bounded by a large bank and ditch at the higher southern end. A substantial scarp

with traces of a broad ditch defines the northern end and there appears to have been a single oblique entrance gap on the south-east side. Recently re-surveyed by English Heritage (Riley 2002a).

TR02; Castleman's Hill, Trull.

Located on a promontory overlooking the western Vale of Taunton at 65m.OD. Of substantial construction, it is defined by two parallel cropmark ditches and extant scarp features, with a possible entrance gap on the north-west side. Although partially destroyed, it was probably of ovoid shape and may have enclosed c.1.5ha. Extant features were located and surveyed by writer in 2002. (Detail: 4.3.4b)

WK02; Bounds Lane, Wambrook.

Located at 204m.OD on a promontory overlooking the Chard Gap and the upper Axe valley. Of ovoid shape, it is severely damaged and defined by the remains of a large bank and ditch enclosing c.1.8ha. On the east side a length of broad bank survives up to 1.6m in height, but no trace of an original entrance is discernible.

WT01; Horse Pool Camp, Whitestaunton.

Located at 192m.OD on the side of a promontory overlooking the Yarty valley. Of ovoid shape it encloses c.2.5ha and consists mainly of a single bank and ditch. On the downslope side the ditch lies at the foot of a substantial scarp, with a counterscarp bank and additional scarping of the hillside creating an impression of strong defences. The single entrance comprises a passageway formed by an extension of the main ramparts.

WV01; King's Castle, Wiveliscombe.

Sited on an isolated hill-top overlooking the western Vale of Taunton at 164m.OD. Severely damaged by quarrying, it was probably of elongated ovoid shape and enclosed in excess of 4.0ha. Its western side is defined by a steep scarp surmounted by fragmentary lengths of degraded bank. At its southern end it is in better condition, with a large inner bank and ditch and a smaller outer bank with traces of a probable second ditch. A single oblique entrance lies between the slight inturning of one inner rampart and the clubbed terminal of the other.

Overview.

a) Smaller sites (under 2.0 hectares).

Of the enclosures described above, eleven are small with areas of between 1.2ha and 1.8ha. Widely distributed across the study area, these occur at elevations ranging from 65m -320m.OD. Four enclose hill-tops or other high points in the landscape, with the remainder being located in sub-dominant positions on ridges or promontories.

In the western part of the area, all six recorded examples have a close relationship with the main river valleys providing access to the interior uplands of Exmoor and the Brendons. Thus Oldberry Castle, Mounsey Castle and Cow Castle are straddled along the Barle valley; Bathealton Camp overlooks a long stretch of the upper Tone valley and Bat's Castle and Grabbist Hill flank the entrance to the Avill valley.

Further east, however, a different pattern emerges, with sites on Pinnacle Hill, Orchard Wood and Castleman's Hill rising above and overlooking tracts of lowland vale and showing no clear relationship to major drainage features. Located at higher elevations, Ruborough Camp and Bounds Lane hillfort command wider views and occupy intermediate positions between low lying valleys and upland areas.

With the exception of Bat's Castle and Castleman's Hill, these smaller hillforts are delineated by a single boundary line consisting of variable combinations of bank, scarp and ditch. Scarped slopes with either a ditch or berm at the base and with or without a surmounting bank are a major feature at seven sites. At Mounsey Castle and Orchard Wood a scarped slope appears to have been the main defining feature along a substantial portion of the enclosure perimeter. Only two sites, Pinnacle Hill and Bounds Lane, appear likely to have been defined entirely by a single bank and ditch; in the latter case of substantial proportions. Evidence for partial delineation by a large bank and ditch also occurs at Ruborough Camp, Bathealton Camp, Orchard Wood and Castleman's Hill.

Although Bat's Castle has only a single ditch, the outer bank is substantially larger than a normal counterscarp and appears to represent a second line of defence. Castleman's Hill, however, has two clear boundary lines in the form of scarps and ditches, with additional scarping along its southern and western edges.

Of those smaller hillforts which have classifiable entrances, most show simple arrangements consisting of gaps in the ramparts. Three of these have in-turned terminals and two (Orchard Wood and Mounsey Castle) oblique entrance passageways. Only Bat's Castle has a more elaborate arrangement, with in-turned rampart terminals and an elongated corridor approach.

b) Larger sites (over 2.0 hectares).

The remaining eight enclosures are somewhat larger, ranging in size from 2.5ha to 5.7ha. These occur mainly in the eastern part of the study area, with none being located on Exmoor or the central and northern Brendons. Ranging in elevation from 55m to 392m.OD, five enclose hill-tops or other high points, with the remainder occupying sub-dominant positions on promontories or hill-crowns.

These larger hillforts occur in three types of location. Dowsborough Camp, Castle Neroche and the unfinished example at Elworthy Burrows are sited in prominent, elevated positions on the edge of major upland areas. These examples have clear views over adjacent and more distant lowlands and are visible from distances in excess of 30km. Two further upland sites, Horse Pool Camp and Clatworthy Camp, are positioned to overlook lengths of river valley and have more restricted views.

Occupying less elevated positions within lowland areas, King's Castle, Wiveliscombe, Norton Fitzwarren Camp and Cannington Camp overlook substantial areas of adjacent vale and are clearly visible from distances of several kilometres.

Only four examples show any evidence for more than one boundary line. These comprise the double-ditched cross dyke at Castle Neroche, the double bank near the entrance at King's Castle and additional scarped slopes at Cannington Camp and Horse Pool Camp. The remainder show only a single delineation, with scarped slopes being a major feature at Clatworthy Camp and Horse Pool Camp. Major bank and ditch features are most apparent at King's Castle, Dowsborough Camp and Castle Neroche; the latter being of large proportions.

With the possible exception of the funnelled approach at Horse Pool Camp, all classifiable entrances are simple arrangements consisting of a plain gap (Dowsborough Camp), in-turned rampart terminals (Clatworthy Camp, Elworthy

Burrows) and inturned ramparts forming an oblique passageway (King's Castle, Cannington Camp).

3.4.2 Group 2 enclosures.

Having internal areas of between 0.75ha. and 0.87ha., all five enclosures in this group occur in sub-dominant locations and show evidence of substantial construction. Basic data relating to each enclosure is given in Table 16 (below), with illustrations being provided in Fig.81.

Code	Name	NGR	Area	Elevation m.OD	Av. slope	Nearest water	Detail
BF02	Higher Castles, Broomfield	ST216320	0.85ha	232	1 in 15	300m.	4.3.2a
BF10	Rook's Castle, Broomfield	ST253323	0.85ha	170	1 in 15	250m.	3.1.1c
BN01	Trendle Ring, Bicknoller	ST118394	0.75ha	215	1 in 3.5	150m.	4.1.3
CP01	Woodworthy Fm, Chipstable	ST043253	0.75ha	270	1 in 10	40m.	4.2.2
OS01	Plainsfield Camp, Stowey	ST182362	0.87ha	250	1 in 7	200m.	4.1.3

Table 16 Group 2 enclosures.

As shown on Fig.79, these enclosures have a limited distribution, with four occurring on the Quantock Hills and one (CP01) on the southern slopes of the Brendon uplands. Having an elevation range of 170-270m.OD, they are all visible from lower lying areas and are positioned between these and extensive tracts of upland. All are sited on moderate or steep gradients adjacent to major changes of slope and are located within easy reach of springs. It may be significant that all are sited within 4km of a Group 1 hillfort.

Although of similar size, these enclosures are variable in shape, ranging from ovoid (BN01, BF10) to quadrant-shaped (OS01), quadrangular (CP01) and oblong (BF02). However, there are marked similarities in construction, with artificially scarped slopes being a major defining feature at Trendle Ring, Plainsfield Camp, Higher Castles and probably Rook's Castle. Substantial bank and ditch features occur at all five sites, although these are not of the proportions encountered at most of the smaller Group 1 enclosures. This is most apparent at Trendle Ring and Plainsfield Camp, where the single bank and ditch features on the more vulnerable up-slope sides form the weakest part of the defences. From

the three better preserved examples, it also appears that considerably greater effort was expended in the construction of the more visible down-slope ramparts than elsewhere along the perimeter.

Where entrances forms can be identified, these include out-turned rampart terminals at Plainsfield Camp, probable in-turned terminals at Rook's Castle and a possible oblique passage through the ramparts at Trendle Ring. Of particular interest is the large ditched annex revealed by air photography at Rook's Castle and the extant remains of a possible similar feature some 3km to the west at Higher Castles.

The two best preserved examples, Trendle Ring and Plainsfield Camp, are scheduled Ancient Monuments and have been classified by English Heritage as slight univallate hillforts. However previous writers, notably Grinsell (1970, 88-91) and Burrow (1981, 243-4, 249), have tended to regard them as hill-slope enclosures comparable with smaller sites which occur on Exmoor and elsewhere. In this study, most of the latter have been included in Group 3 (below).

Whilst it appears perfectly reasonable to regard these Group 2 enclosures as small versions of hillforts, it also seems possible that they may have performed a more specialised function related to the seasonal use of upland grazing by populations settled in adjacent lower elevation areas. This possibility is explored in more detail in 4.1.3.

3.4.3 Group 3 enclosures.

This group is defined by a combination of topographical and typological attributes. It comprises a total of 25 sites, all of which possess the following features:

- A internal area of 0.5 hectares or less.
- Field or air photographic evidence which suggests robust construction.
- A sub-dominant location visible from distances over one kilometre.
- A location which suggests a potential strategic function, such as the observation of movements along valley floors or ridges.
- An indication that both the location and appearance of the enclosure may have been of socio-economic significance.

Of the enclosures in this group, fifteen are extant monuments; the remainder having been revealed through air photography or geophysical survey. As a majority of these sites are discussed in the context of selected sample areas in Chapter 4, they are not described on an individual basis here. However, all are illustrated on Fig.84, with a key and references to more detailed discussion being contained in Table 17.

General distribution.

As shown on Fig.82, the distribution of Group 3 enclosures is markedly localised, with a majority occurring on and around the Brendon / Exmoor uplands. Of these, fourteen lie in the north-eastern part of Exmoor and along the northern fringes of the Brendons, with a further six occurring along the southern edges of these upland areas. Three more isolated examples occur along the south-eastern fringe of the Quantocks and the remaining two occupy positions adjacent to the coast. None are recorded from the more elevated central parts of Exmoor, the central Brendons or the higher parts of the Quantock and Blackdown Hills.

Location and topography.

As indicated by Table 17, these enclosures range in elevation from 80m to 342m.OD. They show an overall preference for steeply sloping locations, with 72% being sited on gradients of 1 in 10 or steeper. This is most apparent on northern Exmoor and in the north Brendons, where all but three examples occur on slopes with gradients of between 1 in 4 and 1 in 8. In terms of geological distribution they are most strongly represented on palaeozoic grits and sandstones, forming 35% of all recorded enclosures on these lithologies.

All enclosures in this group are sited in topographically prominent locations, the majority occurring on the crests or heads of ridges and promontories. The remainder are sited in clearly visible positions on the upper slopes of elevated landforms. All lie within 200m of a marked increase in gradient, with 63% occurring on or immediately adjacent to a major change or break of slope. A majority (68%) have an adjacent water supply, with only one example (NE01) having no identifiable source within 400m.

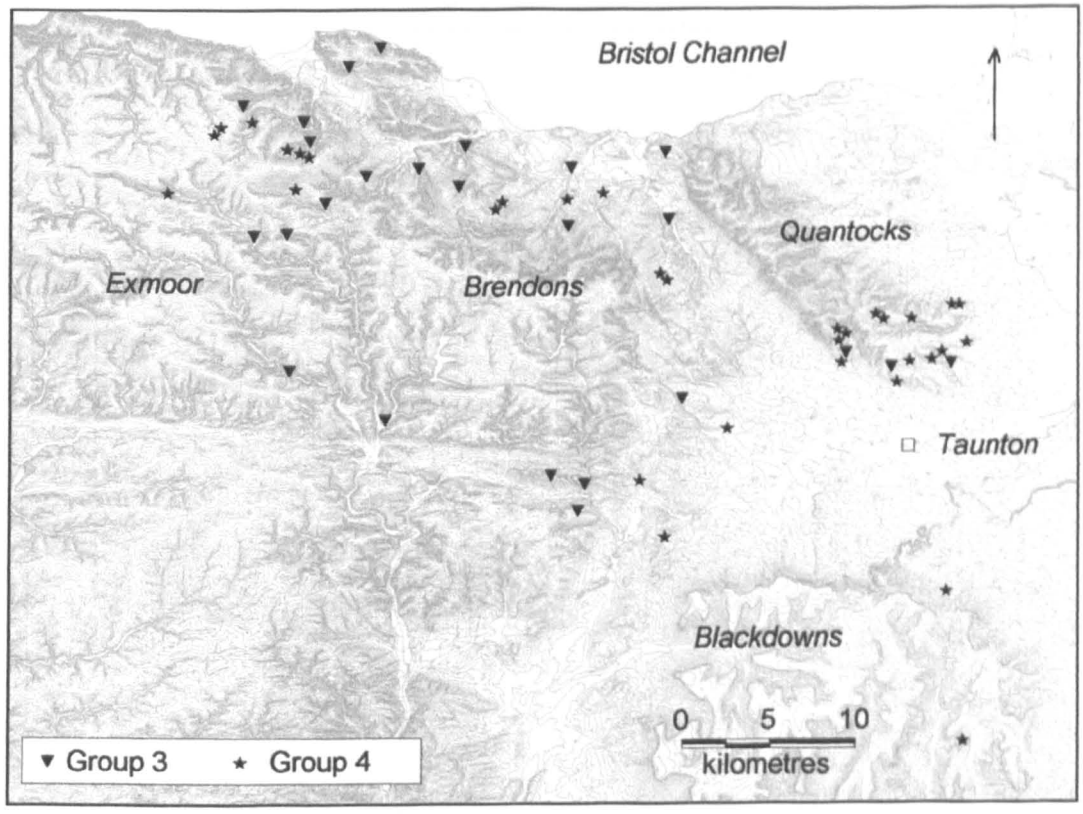


Fig.82 *The distribution of Group 3 and 4 enclosures.*

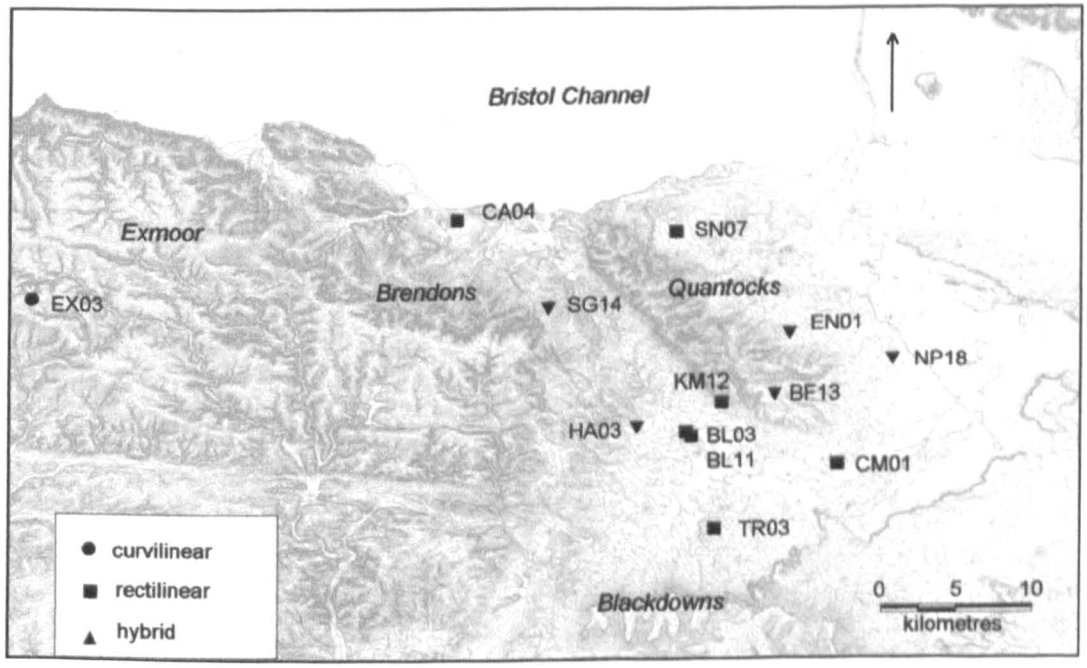


Fig.83 *The distribution of Group 5 enclosures.*

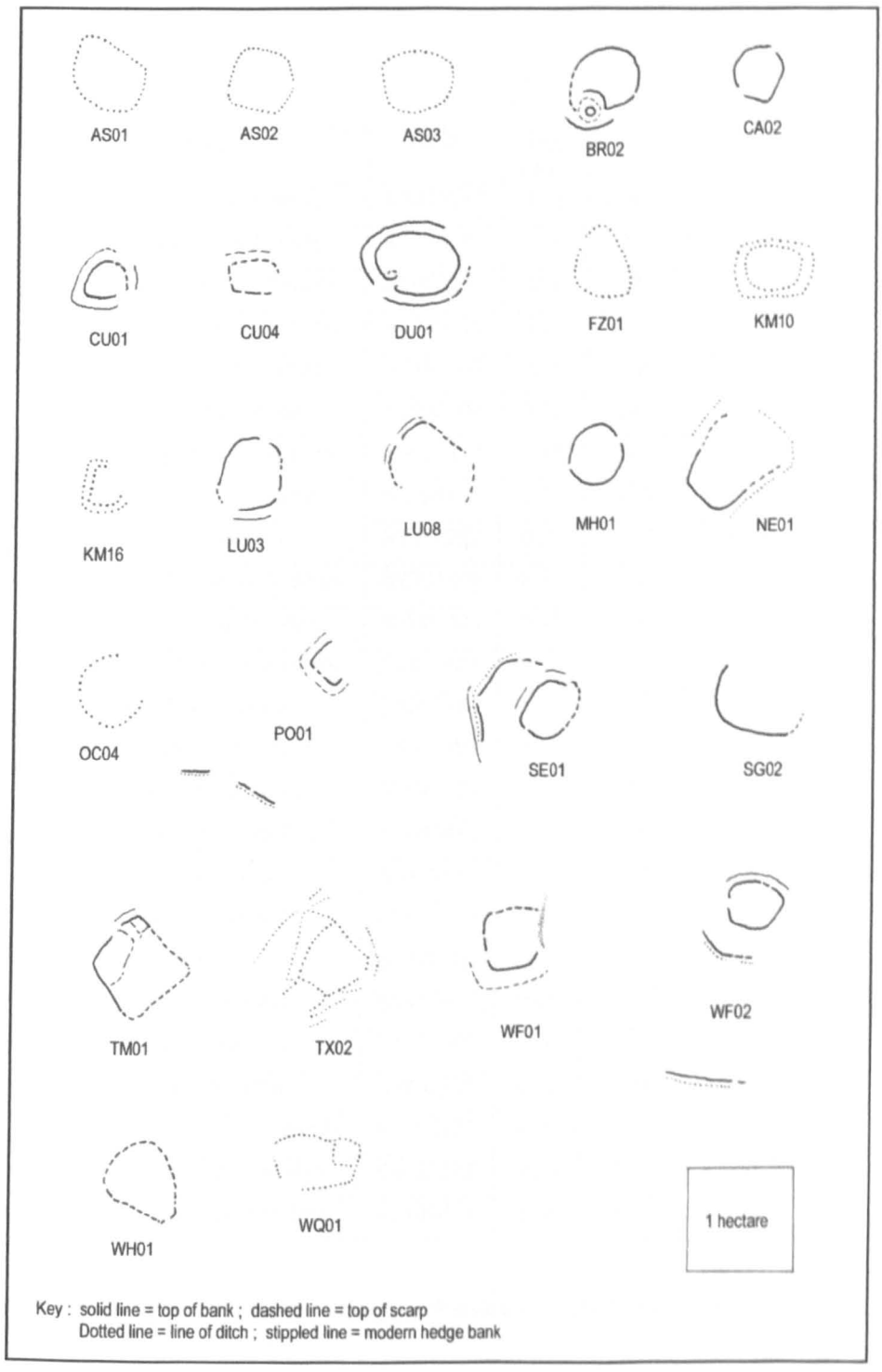


Fig.84 *Group 3 enclosures.*

Code	Name	NGR	Area (ha.)	Elev. m.OD	Av. slope	Water (m.)	Detail
AS01	Dishwell Farm, Ashbrittle	ST050217	0.35	190	1 in 10	150	4.2.3
AS02	Combe Downs, Ashbrittle	ST034237	0.29	256	1 in 7	150	4.2.3
AS03	Pockeridge Copse, Ashbrittle	ST053232	0.3	188	1 in 8	150	4.2.3
BR02	Bury Castle, Brompton Regis	SS939270	0.27	183	1 in 15	200	-
CA02	Long Wood, Carhampton	SS981404	0.18	285	1 in 7	150	4.4.4a
CU01	Trottsway Cross, Cutcombe	SS902396	0.25	342	1 in 40	300	-
CU04	Harwood Brakes, Cutcombe	SS929410	0.18	300	1 in 8	350	4.4.4a
DU01	Black Ball Camp, Dunster	SS984427	0.33	170	1 in 7	400	4.4.1
FZ01	Cat's Ash, Fitzhead	ST110282	0.25	137	1 in 25	350	-
KM10	Volis Farm, Kingston St. Mary	ST231299	0.35	150	1 in 10	75	4.3.3a
KM16	Yarford, Kingston St. Mary	ST203303	0.18	92	1 in 18	100	4.3.2b
LU03	Sweetworthy North, Luccombe	SS891425	0.35	340	1 in 8	150	4.4.2
LU08	Ley Hill, Luccombe	SS891441	0.4+	270	1 in 7	300	4.4.4a
MH01	Furzebury Brake, Minehead	SS936483	0.25	236	1 in 7	230	4.4.4a
NE01	Castle Field, Nettlecombe	ST044381	0.5	207	1 in 7	?	-
OC04	Claydowns Hill, Washford	ST045415	0.3+	78	1 in 11	200	-
PO01	Berry Castle, Porlock	SS859450	0.1+	330	1 in 4	50	4.4.4a
SE01	Bury Castle, Selworthy	SS918472	0.22	237	1 in 7	120	4.4.4a
SG02	Curdon Wood Camp	ST102385	?	86	1 in 7	150	4.1.1
TM01	Timberscombe Wood	SS957414	0.48	152	1 in 10	200	4.4.4a
TX02	Boez Lane, Thurloxton	ST264302	0.5	122	1 in 25	120	3.2.2
WF01	Road Castle, Winsford	SS863376	0.32	309	1 in 8	130	-
WF02	Staddon Hill Camp, Winsford	SS882377	0.18	325	1 in 7	150	-
WH01	Brewer's Castle, Hawkridge	SS883298	0.35	215	1 in 6	75	-
WQ01	Rydon Farm, W. Quantoxhead	ST100423	0.34	95	1 in 20	400	-

Table 17 Basic data on each enclosure included in Group 3.

Associations of potential strategic significance.

a) River and stream valleys.

There appears to be a strong association between Group 3 enclosures and natural drainage systems. Nine examples are closely related to the main valley approaches to the Exmoor / Brendon uplands and have potentially uninterrupted views along significant lengths of valley floor, as shown below:

River	Site Codes
Rivers Exe / Barle	BR02, WF01, WH01
River Tone	AS01, AS03
River Haddeo	BR02
Washford River	OC04
Doniford Stream	SG02
River Avill	DU01
Porlock valley	SE01

Table 18 Associations between Group 3 enclosures and main river valleys.

Of the above, the location of Bury Castle, Brompton Regis (BR02) may be particularly significant. Overlooking the confluence of the Exe and Haddeo, the strategic value of this site appears to be reflected in its later use as a small medieval fortification (Fig.86). Three other examples (WQ01, NE01, FZ01) have clear but more distant views over the Doniford Stream, Washford River and Halse Water valleys respectively. Of the remaining 12 sites, seven overlook the upper reaches and tributaries of the main Exmoor river systems and a further five are closely associated with shorter, deeply incised valleys along the Exmoor coast and in the south-east Quantocks.

b) Ridge-top routes.

Seven enclosures are located in positions on ridges and large promontories which suggest that they may have been adjacent to access routes between upland and lowland areas. Three of these (TX02, KM10, KM16) occur in the south-eastern Quantocks and lie adjacent to potential ridge-top routes leading from the Vale of Taunton to the south Quantock ridge. Further north at West Quantoxhead, the enclosure at Rydon Farm (WQ01) overlooks a natural

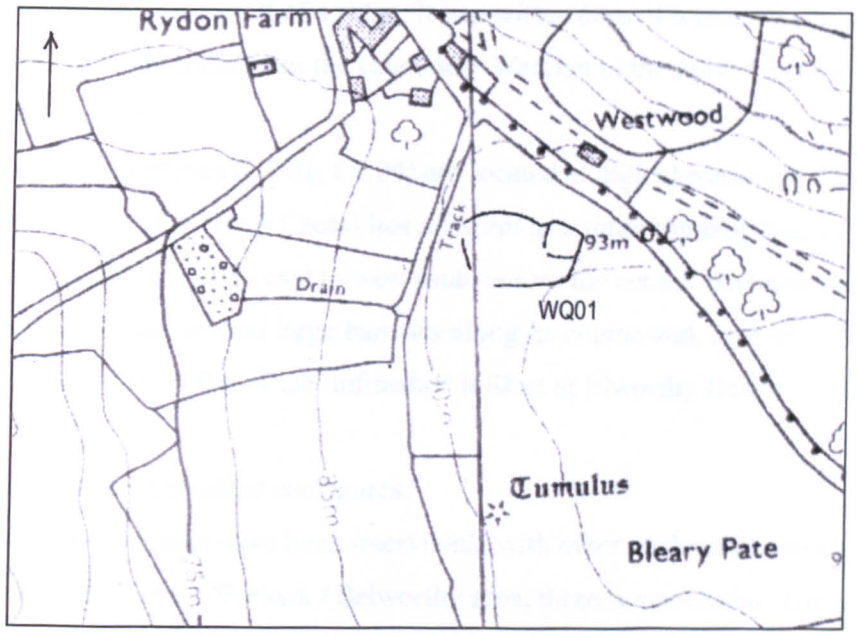


Fig.85 *Location of enclosure WQ01 at Rydon Farm, West Quantoxhead (1 : 5000)*

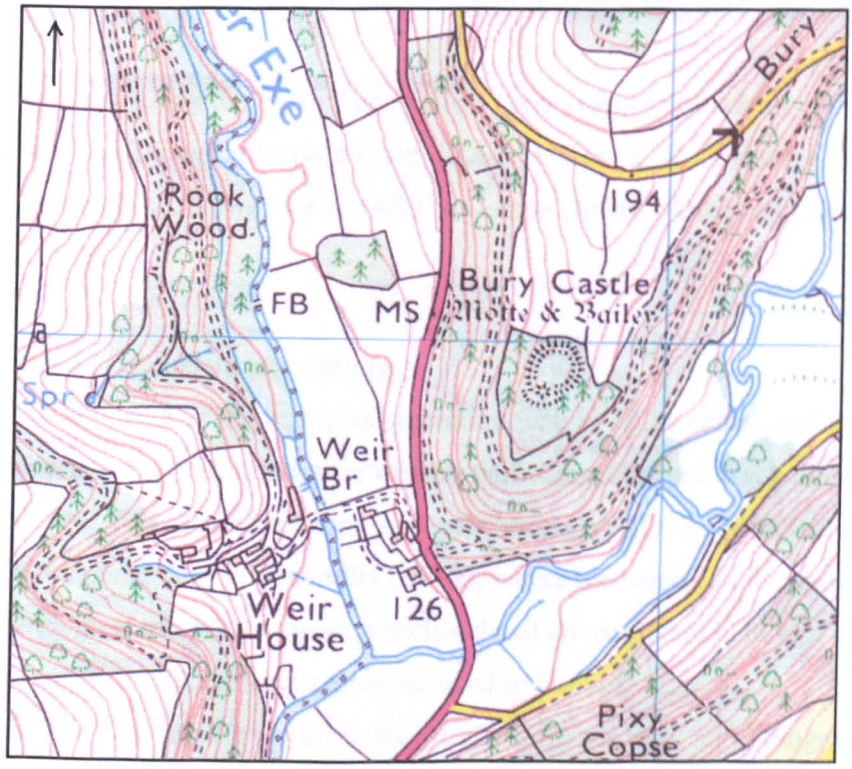


Fig.86 *Location of enclosure BR02 at Bury Castle, Brompton Regis (1 : 10,000)*

Extract from Ordnance Survey 1: 25,000 Explorer Sheet 114 [1997 Ed.]

constriction along the crest of a ridge. It lies within 60m of a lane which follows a known medieval route from the coast near Watchet to the north Quantock uplands (Fig.85).

Two further examples (CU01, CU04) are located at high elevation on Exmoor. Of these, CU01 (Trottsway Cross) lies adjacent to a ridge-top lane leading from Dunkery Gate to the main east to west route across the central Brendon ridge. This latter road has several large barrows along its course and, near its eastern end, passes within 100m of the unfinished hillfort at Elworthy Barrows (BP01).

c) Intervisibility with other enclosures.

A total of 16 sites may have been intervisible with other enclosures belonging to Groups 1,2 or 3. In the Porlock / Selworthy area, there is a potential chain of intervisibility linking Bury Castle (SE01), Ley Hill (LU08), Berry Castle (PO01) and Sweetworthy (LU03). A similar situation occurs in the Dunster / Cutcombe area, involving sites at Harwood Brakes (CU04), Long Wood (CA02), Black Ball Camp (DU01), Grabbist Hill (DU02, Group 1) and Bat's Castle CA01, Group 1).

Further south along the upper Tone valley, there is a possible chain of intervisibility linking Bathealton Camp (BA01, Group1), Woodworthy Farm (CP01, Group 2), Dishwell Farm (AS01), Combe Downs (AS02) and Tuck's Farm (AS03).

Typology and enclosure associations.

Irrespective of size or shape, the most striking feature of the extant enclosures in this group is the robust appearance of their perimeter defences in relation to internal area. This is most apparent at Road Castle (WF01), Staddon Hill Camp (WF02) and Bury Castle, Selworthy (SE01), where the banks, ditches and scarps seem large in proportion to the area enclosed and are comparable in size to some features occurring on the larger sites included in Group 2.

Although it is difficult to estimate the width of ditches from air photograph evidence alone, those defining all nine air photograph images included in this group appear to have been of a substantial nature. Indications of broad ditches are most clearly seen at Claydowns Hill, Washford (OC04), Rydon Farm, West

Quantoxhead (WQ01) and Castle Field, Nettlecombe (NE01), where there is also evidence suggesting a substantial scarp on the downslope side.

In terms of type, Group 3 enclosures consist mainly of hybrid and curvilinear forms, with only a small proportion of rectilinears. All measurable sites have internal areas of between 0.18 - 0.5ha, with 60% lying within the 0.2 - 0.39ha. size range.

Twelve enclosures are of hybrid type and range in size from 0.18 - 0.5ha. Of those classifiable by shape, six are quadrangular, with one example each of quadrant-shaped, D-shaped, lobate and sub-triangular forms.

A further nine enclosures are of curvilinear type. These range in size from 0.25 - 0.35ha. and all classifiable examples are of ovoid shape. The remaining four enclosures have been classified as rectilinear and have areas ranging from 0.32 - 0.5ha. Of these, three are more or less trapezoidal and one is a partial site of probable oblong shape.

A large majority these enclosures appear to have had a single perimeter line consisting of combinations of bank, scarp and ditch with occasional traces of a counterscarp bank. However, non-extant sites in the south-east Quantocks (KM16, Yarford ; KM10, Volis Hill) have produced evidence for two concentric ditches which, at Yarford, appear to have been contemporary (4.3.2b). In the Exmoor / Brendon area, Black Ball Camp (DU01) has a large counterscarp bank which may have formed an outer defence and the ploughed out remains of a possible similar bank are present at Trottsway Cross (CU01).

Artificial scarping as a major delineating feature occurs at Road Castle (WF01), Bury Castle, Selworthy (SE01), Timberscombe Wood (TM01) and probably Castle Field, Nettlecombe (NE01). At Brewer's Castle (WH01), the entire perimeter is defined by a steeply scarped slope with no apparent traces of ditch or surmounting bank.

Where entrances are reasonably well preserved, the majority appear to have consisted of simple gaps in the ramparts. However, short in-turned entrances are visible at Brewer's Castle (WH01) and Black Ball Camp (DU01); in the latter case incorporating a possible platform feature.

Due to later disturbances, internal features associated with extant enclosures are only occasionally identifiable. However, levelled platforms have been recorded at Brewer's Castle (WH01), Long Wood (CA02), Black Ball Camp (DU01) and

possibly at Sweetworthy North (LU03). At Rydon Farm (WQ01), air photograph images clearly suggest a small inner enclosure.

Three examples on Exmoor have adjacent outworks. At Berry Castle (PO01), two remnants of a single cross-bank and ditch extend across the narrow promontory c.120m upslope of the enclosure. A similar arrangement occurs at Staddon Hill (WF02), where cross-bank features are present at c.20m and 140m from the enclosure on the upslope side. In both cases it has been suggested that the sites conform to Fox's cross-bank type of multiple enclosure (Fox 1961, 43; Dempsey 1997, 2-3). At Bury Castle, Selworthy (SE01), the arrangement may be more complex, with a cross-bank outwork occurring c.150m upslope of the enclosure and a possible outer enclosure or annex being represented by an angled cross-bank and ditch (4.4.4a).

Only six Group 3 sites show any evidence of close association with other enclosures. In the southern Quantocks, all three examples (KM16, KM10, TX02) occupy prominent positions within enclosure clusters and lie within 200m of at least one other site. A similar situation occurs on Exmoor, where Sweetworthy North (LU03) forms a small group with two smaller, less substantial enclosures (LU05, LU06). In the north-west Brendons, Black Ball Camp (DU01) is sited c.500m downslope from the hillfort at Bat's Castle (CA01) and, in the Barle Valley, Brewer's Castle lies on the opposite side of the river to Mounsey Castle at a distance of about 200m.

Overview.

Distributed mainly across the western part of the study area, the enclosures in Group 3 have a broad elevation range and are most frequently sited on steeply sloping ground. All occupy prominent positions adjacent to major changes of slope and have clear views over stream or river valleys. A significant number are located adjacent to potential ridge routes and some may have been intervisible with similar or larger enclosures, especially around the fringes of the Exmoor / Brendon uplands. However, only a minority appear to have had a close association with other enclosures.

A majority of Group 3 sites enclose between 0.2 - 0.4ha and are of curvilinear or hybrid type. All show some evidence of robust construction and, amongst the fifteen extant examples, there are a number of well defined features including

substantial banked and scarped ramparts, large counterscarp banks, in-turned entrances and adjacent cross-bank outworks. Although smaller and less strongly constructed than Group 1 and 2 enclosures, both the location and appearance of these Group 3 sites suggests that they may have occupied higher positions within local site hierarchies than the majority of small enclosures in the area.

This grouping of enclosures has attempted to integrate the field evidence from a number of extant sites on Exmoor with that provided by aerial photography from elsewhere in the study area. As a result, it can be suggested that the attributes of prominence in the landscape, potentially strategic location and substantial construction which are apparent in the standing monuments may also apply to many destroyed sites across a wider area than previously thought. Although not recorded from elevations below 80m.OD, such cropmark sites suggest that enclosures with these attributes are not confined to higher, western parts of the region but also occur at lower elevations in locations overlooking the major lowland areas.

3.4.4 Group 4 enclosures.

This group is defined solely by topographical factors and contains a variety of enclosure shapes and sizes. It consists of all 34 complete and partial enclosures which possess the following attributes:

- A non-dominant position which lacks prominence in the landscape.
- A location on a slope of 1 in 10 or steeper.
- An identifiable water supply within 200m of the enclosure.

Of the enclosures in Group 4, nine are extant or part-extant monuments and the remainder air photograph images. As a substantial proportion occur in the sample areas discussed in Chapter 4 they will not be described individually in this section. However, all are illustrated on Fig.87 (upper section), with a key and basic data being provided in Table 19.

General distribution.

As shown on Fig.82, these enclosures have a broadly similar distribution to those of Group 3, with fourteen sites, including nine extant monuments, being located on north-eastern Exmoor and around the fringes of the Brendon Hills. They are,

however, most strongly represented at the south-eastern end of the Quantocks. Here a further fourteen examples, all of which are air photograph images, have been identified within a relatively small area. Five more isolated examples occur along the western and southern edges of the Vale of Taunton and on the eastern edge of the Blackdowns. As with the Group 3 sites, none have been recorded from the northern Quantocks or central Brendons and only one is located on central Exmoor. 58% of sites are located on palaeozoic slates, with a further 21% occurring on grit and sandstone formations.

Location and topography.

As shown on Table 19, these enclosures range in elevation from 60-420m.OD., with 43% being located at over 200m.OD. Of particular interest is the fact that only one example (MV05) has been recorded at an elevation of below 70m.OD. This may be significant as slopes of 1 in 10 or steeper adjacent to streams occur frequently at lower elevations in the eastern parts of the region, including areas which have produced much air photographic evidence for enclosures.

No examples have been recorded on slopes steeper than about 1 in 5 and the majority occur within a gradient range of 1 in 5 to 1 in 8. On such slopes, at least some levelling of the ground would have been required prior to the building of structures . With only one exception (CU03; 4.4.3), some indication of slope modification in the form of platforms has been observed at all of the extant enclosures located in the Exmoor / Brendon area. This would seem to suggest that many or most of the cropmark sites in this group may also have had levelled areas suitable for house construction.

In terms of water supply, all sites have adjacent sources which, in 90% of cases, are springs or small headwater streams. A significant proportion (42%) have sources which lie within 100m of the enclosure.

A majority of Group 4 sites are located on the sides of valleys, with the remainder occurring on the sides of ridges and promontories. Most are sited on more or less featureless slopes, with only 12% being adjacent to major changes of gradient and 15% occurring on minor promontory features. In terms of aspect, a significant proportion (33%) occur on slopes facing south-west to north. This

Code	Name	NGR	Area (ha.)	Elev. m.OD	Av. slope	Water (m.)	Detail
BA03	Greenvale Fm., Bathealton	ST082237	0.21	91	1 in 7	70	4.2.3
BF04	Ivyton Fm., Broomfield	ST203318	1.7	227	1 in 5	150	4.3.2a
BF14	Stream Fm., Broomfield	ST242326	0.35	185	1 in 10	85	
BF15	N. of Cushuish, Broomfield	ST199318	0.1	245	1 in 7	40	4.3.2a
BF16	Ivyton Fm., Broomfield	ST210316	x	205	1 in 7	130	4.3.2a
BF17	Lydeard Fm., Broomfield	ST224328	0.25	228	1 in 10	150	
BF18	Lydeard Fm., Broomfield	ST224330	0.32	235	1 in 8	200	
CH04	Volis Fm., Cheddon Fitzpaine	ST234290	0.13	97	1 in 6	150	4.3.3a
CU03	Codsend Moor, Cutcombe	SS888404	x	355	1 in 8	120	4.4.3
EX01	Penn Allotment, Exmoor	SS815401	0.08	378	1 in 5	200	
GO01	Huntstile Fm., North Petherton	ST266334	0.37	88	1 in 10	130	3.2.2
KM13	Yarford, Kingston St. Mary	ST202301	x	80	1 in 6	120	4.3.2b
LU04	Blackford, Luccombe	SS862442	x	335	1 in 5	150	4.4.4b
LU05	Sweetworthy East, Luccombe	SS890424	0.16	360	1 in 5	100	4.4.2
LU06	Sweetworthy West, Luccombe	SS889424	0.15	365	1 in 5	100	4.4.2
LU07	Bagley, Luccombe	SS883426	0.4	337	1 in 7	70	4.4.2
MV05	Preston Fm., Milverton	ST140260	0.13	60	1 in 7	170	
NE07	Beggearn Huish, Nettlecombe	ST043397	0.16	87	1 in 8	90	
NP13	S. of Clavelshay, N. Petherton	ST254303	x	132	1 in 7	75	3.2.2
NP14	S. of Clavelshay, N. Petherton	ST256304	x	140	1 in 10	190	3.2.2
NP28	Huntstile Fm., North Petherton	ST270336	0.13	70	1 in 10	200	3.2.2
NP32	Farringdon Fm., N. Petherton	ST276313	0.08	93	1 in 10	50	
PO02	Porlock Allotment West	SS840434	0.11	420	1 in 7	40	4.4.4b
PO03	Porlock Allotment East	SS843437	0.16	420	1 in 8	100	4.4.4b
SF01	S. of Staple Fitzpaine	ST264170	0.15	136	1 in 8	30	
SG08	NW of Stogumber	ST096374	0.17	85	1 in 9	75	4.1.1
SG15	SW of Preston, Stogumber	ST096354	0.18	159	1 in 10	180	4.1.1
SG16	SW of Preston, Stogumber	ST097353	0.13	148	1 in 9	85	4.1.1
WE04	Chitterwell, Wellington	ST100202	0.11+	100	1 in 6	150	
WK01	Wortheal Fm, Wambrook	ST274084	x	198	1 in 9	100	
WL07	Higher Stream Fm., Williton	ST 063399	0.25	70	1 in 8	160	
WM08	Yalway Fm., West Monkton	ST242302	x	165	1 in 7	120	
WY01	Rodhuish , Withycombe	SS 999392	0.06	280	1 in 6	150	
WY05	Rodhuish , Withycombe	ST005396	0.28	203	1 in 8	200	

Table 19. *Basic data on each enclosure included in Group 4.*

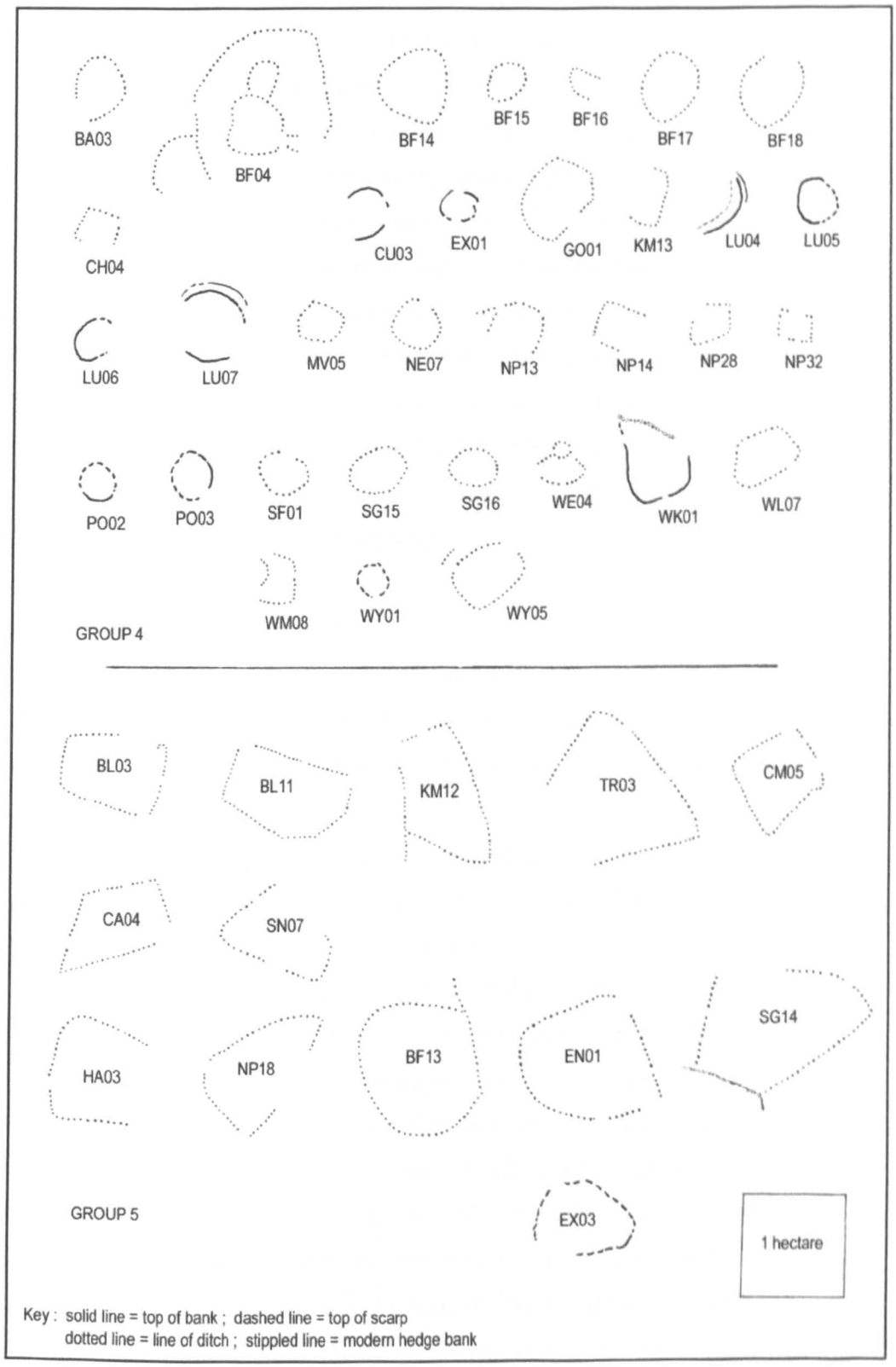


Fig.87 *Group 4 and 5 enclosures.*

agrees with the results for all enclosures located on steep slopes (2.7.2), where 34% of the total have inclement aspects.

70% of enclosures lie within 200m of more gently sloping ground which, in most cases, is of comparable elevation and distance from water to the enclosure site. This appears significant as it suggests that, in these instances, the choice of a steeper site for the enclosure may have been a positive decision rather than a necessity imposed by the local topography. Although this could indicate that other locational factors were considered more important than slope, it could equally well suggest that the better land drainage afforded by a steeper slope was a major practical consideration. This may relate to the function of the enclosure and could have been of importance were numbers of livestock to be confined within its perimeter for any length of time.

Typology and enclosure associations.

On average, Group 4 enclosures are markedly smaller than those in Group 3, with 64% of measurable examples enclosing areas of less than 0.2 ha. Only two sites (LU07, BF04) have areas of 0.4ha or larger; the latter site being anomalous in that it is a composite feature.

Forming 58% of the total group, curvilinear enclosures are the main type represented, with a majority of these being of ovoid shape. These are widely distributed across the area and, apart from BF04, are all single enclosures without annexes. Six examples including LU07, BF14 and LU04 appear to have been substantial enclosures comparable with some of those included in Group 3, although lacking the prominence or strategic siting of the latter.

Hybrid enclosures account for 24% of the group, the main identifiable shape represented being quadrangular. These have a wide distribution, although only one example (LU06) is located on Exmoor. All are single enclosures with the exception of WE04, which may have formed part of a lobate enclosure.

Occurring only in the south-east Quantocks, enclosures of rectilinear type are the least well represented and form only 18% of the total. All are single enclosures, the classifiable examples comprising two trapezoids and an oblong with areas of less than 0.15ha.

A total of thirteen (39%) of the Group 4 enclosures are located within 200m of another site. Of these, nine are adjacent to another enclosure in this group and one (NP28) forms part of an enclosure pair.

Of particular interest are small groups of adjacent sites on Exmoor (LU03, 05, 06 ; 4.4.2) and in the south-east Quantocks (BF04, 15, 16; 4.3.2a). In both cases, small curvilinear and hybrid enclosures lie adjacent to larger sites and are located near spring heads. These groupings may suggest specialised economic units and are examined in more detail in Chapter 4.

Other examples, including KM13 at Yarford (4.3.2b) occur within more general clusters of enclosures located in the south-eastern Quantocks. In these instances, the occurrence of Group 4 sites amongst enclosures located on gentler slopes might suggest that they performed a specialised function within more diverse economic units.

Overview.

A large majority of enclosures in this group are of curvilinear or hybrid type and have areas of under 0.3ha. Although of varied typology, these sites appear to have enough in common to allow them to be examined as a single group. However, the limited evidence available seems to suggest that these unifying factors may well be economic rather than cultural or chronological in nature.

On the evidence of their siting, it seems possible that at least some of these enclosures could reflect a degree of economic specialisation which may be related to the rearing and maintenance of livestock. This is suggested by such factors as their strong representation at higher elevations and virtual absence from lowland areas, occurrence on steep slopes adjacent to more gently sloping ground and close proximity to fresh running water. The occurrence of 33% of examples on south-west to north facing slopes may also be significant, as these aspects are the least favourable for crop raising. On the field evidence from extant enclosures, it seems probable that some form of habitation, perhaps of a seasonal nature, occurred within at least a majority of these sites.

The location, small size and relatively insubstantial appearance of the majority of Group 4 enclosures suggests that these did not enclose higher status settlements. This is most apparent at Sweetworthy and Ivyton Farm, where small sites may have been subordinate to larger, more substantial enclosures. However,

several other examples, notably Bagley (LU07), are somewhat larger and appear to have been more strongly constructed. Apart from location and prominence in the landscape, these appear to resemble some of the sites included in Group 3 and might perhaps have enjoyed a greater degree of independence or higher status in the local hierarchy.

3.4.5 Group 5 enclosures.

This group completes the general survey of medium and large enclosures in the study area. It comprises all 13 sites with areas greater than 0.5ha which have not been included in Groups 1and 2 or identified as Roman military works. All are illustrated on Fig.87 (lower section), with their distribution being shown on Fig.83. As indicated in the data tables below, eight examples are examined in more detail in Chapter 4.

Rectilinear shapes.

Code	NGR / Site name	Shape	Area (ha.)	Elevation m.OD	Av. slope	Nearest water	Detail
BL03	ST175284 Dene Cross	trapezoid	0.6	48m	1 in 70	300m	4.3.1b
BL11	ST182280 Longlands Farm	polygonal	0.76	45m	1 in 75	300m	4.3.1b
CA04	ST025426 Marshwood Farm	trapezoid	0.6	22m	1 in 50	350m	
CM05	ST276272 Creech Heathfield	trapezoid	0.53	28m	1 in 50	200m	
KM12	ST201304 Yarford	trapezoid	0.8	108m	1 in 7	350m	4.3.2b
SN07	ST168420 Dyche, Stringston	partial	0.6 +	85m	1 in 40	1200m	4.1.2
TR03	ST199223 Chilliswood Farm	trapezoid	1.3 +	52m	1 in 12	30m	4.3.4a

***Table 20** Rectilinear enclosures included in Group 5.*

Of the seven rectilinear examples shown in the above table, five are located in areas of gentle topography. Comprising sites BL03, BL11, CA04, CM05 and SN07, these all enclose between 0.5-0.8ha and occur within the main lowland areas on terrace gravels or Head overlying mudstones. All are sited on very gentle slopes with clement aspects and, with the exception of CM05, appear to lack an adjacent water supply.

Two examples (BL03, BL11) are the largest sites within adjacent clusters of enclosures at Bishop's Lydeard and one (SN07) occurs within a major cluster to

the east of the Quantocks between Holford and Stringston. Located c.3km to the north of Norton Fitzwarren Camp, site BL03 at Bishop's Lydeard is an impressive, broad ditched feature which may be of special significance. The other enclosures, however, appear less substantial and air photograph images of site SN07 near Stringston suggest that this may have been bounded by a large palisade.

The remaining two examples differ markedly in location from the above and are sited in positions suggestive of a possible pastoral function. To the south of Taunton, a large trapezoid (TR03) occurs in undulating terrain on a moderate, north facing slope adjacent to a spring . A similar feature on the southern edge of the Quantocks (KM12) is located on a steep promontory with access to springs.

Hybrid shapes.

Although few in number, these larger hybrid enclosures are all sited in positions which might suggest an involvement with pastoralism. Within this group, only one site occurs at low elevation on gently sloping ground. Located near North Petherton, site NP18 lies on the edge of a low promontory adjacent to and just above the level of the alluvial clays of the lower Parrett valley. Having an adjacent water supply, this site would have been ideally positioned to exploit spring and summer grazing along the edge of the wetlands.

Code	NGR / Site name	Shape	Area (ha.)	Elevation m.OD	Av. slope	Nearest water	Detail (page)
BF13	ST239310 Oggshole Farm	D-shaped	1.15	190m	1 in 16	125m	4.3.4a
EN01	ST247351 Enmore	Q-shaped	1.13	72m	1 in 15	100m	
HA03	ST143288 Lower Stoford	partial	0.7+	76m	1 in 18	250m	4.3.4a
NP18	ST 317332 Copse Farm	sub-triang.	0.7	8m	1 in 30	200m	
SG14	ST086368 Combecross Fm.	partial	1.0+	185m	1 in 6	150m	4.1.1

***Table 21** Hybrid enclosures included in Group 5.*

At Oggshole Farm, Broomfield, site BF13 lies just below the crest of the south Quantock ridge adjacent to a spring. Air photographs suggest that it may have been linked to a former route of the main ridge track by a northwards continuation of the ditch which forms its eastern side. Of similar size, a site at

Enmore (EN01) occupies a moderate sloping position in close proximity to a stream. This enclosure lies adjacent to a major valley route which leads from the lowlands near Bridgwater to Ruborough Camp (BF01) and the south Quantock uplands.

Of the two partial hybrids, site SG14 at Combecross Farm probably enclosed an area in excess of 1.0ha and lies on steeply sloping ground adjacent to a spring. At Lower Stoford, site HA03 is sited on a low promontory which provides access to the south-east Brendons from the Vale of Taunton.

Curvilinear shapes.

Apart from sites included in Groups 1 and 2, there is very little evidence for curvilinear enclosures larger than 0.45ha from within the study area. The single recorded example (EX03), which occurs on Exmoor at Wester Emmetts, is located at 455m.OD and is largely obscured by blanket peat. An irregularly shaped ovoid, this site encloses c.0.6ha and is defined by traces of a stone bank. It is located on featureless, gently sloping ground some 400m from the nearest spring and lies within an area containing much evidence for earlier prehistoric activity including round barrows, stone settings and a stone row. Although not included in Group 5, a smaller, badly damaged, but morphologically similar site at East Pinford (EX05) is also defined by a low stone bank. This enclosure also occurs within an area containing stone settings, cairns and round barrows. In both cases, a combination of high elevation, featureless location, unusual morphology and proximity to Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age monuments could suggest that these enclosures belong to the earlier prehistoric period.

Overview.

This small group brings into focus the paucity of evidence from the study area for non-dominant sites enclosing more than 0.5ha. In spite of the small number of sites involved, it seems possible that two distinct sub-groups may be represented by these enclosures. The first comprises the five rectilinear sites which are located on gravelly soils in areas of gentle relief. Having clement aspects, these all occur on rich arable land and, in three cases, are associated with major clusters of enclosures. A second sub-group may be represented by rectilinear sites KM12 and TR03 and all of the hybrids. In these cases, the

enclosure location may have been advantageous for the movement or grazing of livestock, which could reflect a greater involvement in pastoralism or even a specialised economic function for these sites.